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Arab-Israeli Talks

Delegates Note No Visible Progress in 2d Week

TA2406195193 Jerusalem Israel Television in Hebrew 1840 GMT 24 Jun 93

[Text] The second week of the current round of peace talks in Washington ended this evening. No progress was made so far in the attempts to attain a document of principles between Israel and the Palestinians, and no progress was made in the talks with Syria either. Our correspondent in Washington, Ya'ir Stern, reports:

[Begin recording] [Stern] The second week of the current round of peace talks is ending this evening with no visible progress. Israel has tried to hand the Palestinians self-government authorities in Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza on matters such as health, education, social welfare, trade, and so on. The Palestinians, however, refuse to take. They claim that they are not authorized to accept the Israeli offer and that they will pass it on to their leadership, meaning the PLO.

[Elyaqim Rubinstein, head of the Israeli team for negotiations with the Palestinians] The offer has great potential. From their point of view it is certainly beneficial because through it they will be in charge of many areas of the Palestinian population's life. From our point of view, it suits our interests because it does not harm any of Israel's basic interests. It could be a source of dynamic momentum in the negotiations, and we really hope they will address it, which has not happened so far.

[Stern] Practical progress was made in the discussions of the Israeli-Jordanian working groups, but the Jordanians are refusing to declare this progress for as long as the Palestinian track is stuck.

The talks with Lebanon are a waste of time and focus on futile rhetorics. Uri Lubrani, head of the Israeli delegation, is furious in view of the Lebanese delaying tactics.

[Lubrani] We told him [the head of the Lebanese delegation] that if he continues with this nonsense, we will remind him every morning that 90 percent of Lebanon is occupied by Syria, and that he and all the other members of the Lebanese Government are not free to make their own decisions, they receive instructions from Syria.

[Stern] The Lebanese depend on the Syrians, and the Syrians continue making daily claims that Israel is preventing progress.

[Chief Syrian delegate Muwaffaq al-'Allaf, in English] Because of the Israeli attitude on various tracks, the importance or the focus is switching or zigzagging between one track and another.

[Stern] I asked Ambassador Rabinovich whether there is any truth to speculations in the Israeli media regarding a softening of the Syrian stand.

[Rabinovich] No. I have seen the speculations in the press and, to my regret, they are baseless. When I speak of signs of openness, I mean far more modest things.

[Stern] Another week of talks is ending without results. The current question is whether here, at the State Department building, the Americans are preparing draft papers for the Israeli-Palestinian and the Israeli-Syrian tracks that would lead to some results next week, the last week of the current round of talks. It will be a few more days before we find out. [end recording]

Stances, Proposals Reiterated

TA2506051593 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0405 GMT 25 Jun 93

[Text] The Americans are putting the final touches on a new draft for a joint Israeli-Palestinian document of principles, and Israeli sources in Washington assessed this morning that this will be submitted to the sides very soon. Our correspondent Arye Golan reports from Washington:

[Begin recording] [Golan] The second week of the 10th round of talks has ended in Washington, and the freeze in the negotiations continues. All eyes are now turned toward Secretary of State Warren Christopher and Dennis Ross, the new coordinator of the peace talks, in the hope that the U.S. peace team, which has just finished formulating a new paper, will manage to bridge the gaps in the Israeli and Palestinian positions.

The main challenge is the question of Jerusalem. In the absence of Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi, the head of the Palestinian delegation, who left for Chicago to undergo eye surgery, it was Sa'ib 'Urayqat who reacted to Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin's remarks about Jerusalem two days ago. If your prime minister is talking about absolute Israeli rule over Jerusalem, 'Urayqat said, that is a bad statement that does not serve the purpose for which we came to Washington. Jerusalem is the key to any progress, 'Urayqat said.

Members of the Israeli delegation emphasized last night that Israel's concept of the interim arrangement is functional and includes territorial aspects. Having said that, Israel's position is that the question of Jerusalem does not belong here.

Rut Yaron, the Israeli delegation's spokesman, said it is a mistake on the part of the Palestinians to insist on raising the question of Jerusalem. If what they want is an agreement rather than to lock horns and accentuate the differences, Yaron added, then our offer on early empowerment of the Palestinian self-government is a good and practical proposal. Those who persist in raising the question of Jerusalem undermine the chances of making progress, she said.

What has been curbing progress in the talks with the Syrians is their precondition to get an a priori Israeli commitment to a full withdrawal from all the territories. They are also demanding reciprocity and symmetry on issues such as demilitarization of the Golan Heights, with 1 km on the Golan balanced by the demilitarization of 1 km in the Galilee. Israel agrees to reciprocity but says the demand for symmetry is totally unacceptable.

On the other hand, Ambassador Itamar Rabinovich voiced Israeli willingness to effect additional changes in the Madrid format.

[Rabinovich, in English] The Madrid format is something that should not be easily tampered with. It took a long time and a major effort to put it together, and I will not be the one to advocate that we abandon it or that we introduce radical changes in it. But if for several rounds the format as such has not yielded results, then we might entertain the notion of some changes. A couple of these changes have already occurred, particularly with regard to the pattern of American involvement.

[Golan translates the above and continues] Asked about it yesterday, Secretary Christopher said: The United States continues to stand behind the letters of assurances given to the sides on the eve of the Madrid conference. Referring to changes in the Madrid format, he said: There is no need for procedural changes, but we are open to suggestions from the sides. If something can remove the obstacles, we will go along with it, Christopher said.

As things look from here this morning, that something is the United States of America. [end recording]

[A related report by Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English at 0400 GMT on 25 June adds that in yesterday's talks, "the Lebanese delegation proposed that Israel withdraw from part of the security zone to test whether the Lebanese Government is capable of maintaining security along the border. Israeli chief negotiator Uri Lubrani retorted that Israel does not engage in experiments with the safety of its civilians. Israel will withdraw, he said, only when proper security arrangements exist in the area."]

Arab Chief Negotiators Hold Coordination Meeting

JN2506084493 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 24 Jun 93

[Text] The heads of the Arab delegations to the ongoing peace negotiations in Washington held their second coordination meeting of the 10th round at the Syrian delegation's residence last night. The meeting was held in order to discuss developments on all the Arab tracks of the talks and assess the results achieved so far. More details about the negotiations are in the following report:

[Begin recording] [Jordan Television correspondent Salim 'Ali Dhiyab] This meeting, which was held at the end of the second week, has great significance. Sources say that the Arab parties are no longer discussing problems and obstacles facing the peace process but are stressing the role of the U.S. sponsor as a full and fair partner and its need to give momentum to the peace process by exerting pressure on Israel to abide by the terms of reference and the UN Security Council resolutions on which the Madrid process was based.

In a statement to reporters, Dr. Fayiz al-Tarawinah, Jordan's ambassador in Washington and head of the Jordanian delegation, said that the Arab parties to the peace process have identical stands on the need to emphasize the terms of reference of the peace process according to relevant UN resolutions.

[Al-Tarawinah] We may be going in a circle. However, I cannot say that we were able to advance. This is not only due to a delay on our part, but there is also stubbornness and divergent stands. Perhaps this is an opportunity to tell all our brothers that reports implying that approval of the agenda on the Jordanian track, which we did not even discuss in this round, is linked to progress on the other tracks of talks, especially the Palestinians track, which has special significance here, or that the agenda is an agreement or a treaty are wrong. The agenda is just the beginning of things and the beginning of negotiations. This is why I always use the word discussion because we still have not even arrived at these issues. However, naturally, we are in a state of continuous coordination. Coordination only goes beyond defining the stand tomorrow or next week. [sentence as heard]

[Dhiyab] Dr. Sa'ib 'Urayqat [deputy head of the Palestinian delegation to the talks] said that almost daily contacts are held with the U.S. cosponsor to emphasize the terms of reference.

['Urayqat] On the Palestinian track, perhaps this round is more significant than other rounds because the Israeli delegation has come to a standstill and has lost its enthusiasm to negotiate. It seems that the Israelis changed their stand 180 degrees, in the sense that they are waiting for action by the U.S. sponsor. We are holding almost daily meetings with the U.S. sponsor.

[Dhiyab] Today, the Arab delegations entered the rooms of negotiations with the Israeli negotiating teams in the last day of the second week, carrying the same files, topics, issues, and problems. There is nothing new to report.

Salim 'Ali Dhiyab, Jordan Television, from Washington. [end recording]

Syria's al-'Allaf Comments

JN2506065093 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0415 GMT 25 Jun 93

[Text] Washington—Arab delegations attending the peace talks in Washington have stressed that the peace process is facing difficulties and that no progress has been achieved from any side.

The Arab delegates said they hope the current round will not end like the previous rounds—without achieving positive results. They also voiced growing concern about the lack of results in their talks with the Israeli delegations one week before the end of the 10th round.

Following a coordination meeting they held the night before last, the Arab delegations yesterday issued a statement in which they noted with concern that there was no progress in any aspect of the talks with the Israelis.

Muwaffaq al-'Allaf, chief of the Syrian delegation to the peace talks, said that yesterday's meeting discussed at length the order that has to be followed when dealing with

the substantive issues in the peace process; namely the issues of complete withdrawal, security, and peace.

In a statement following the meeting, al-'Allaf said: We have clearly stated that complete withdrawal is a basic step that has to be taken before discussing anything relating to security and peace, because peace is the final objective of this process. One does not start with the result, but with the necessary steps that have to be taken to reach that objective.

Al-'Allaf stressed that the first step, which must come before any discussion of peace and security, and without which no one can imagine there could be peace, is complete withdrawal. He added: Keeping any part of our territory under occupation constitutes, and will continue to constitute, an aggressive act against us. Peace cannot be discussed while aggression continues.

Al-'Allaf added: The discussion also touched on the issue of security. It was made clear that any security arrangements must be made on equal footing and that the security of one party cannot be made at the expense of the other.

He added: We also reviewed the achievements made from the sixth round until now. These rounds were held while the current Israeli government was in office. It was noted that the results of these rounds were not much different than earlier rounds, when the previous Israeli government was in power. This shows that the change was not substantial, but rather superficial. The Israeli side is still refusing to accept the initial step that it is required to take according to the peace process—namely, complete withdrawal.

Asked if the statement by the current Israeli prime minister, Yitzhaq Rabin, that Israel is prepared to withdraw from the occupied Golan Heights indicates a difference between the current and former governments, al-'Allaf said: If readiness to withdraw does not clearly mean complete withdrawal, then it is not different from rejecting the principle of withdrawal. The issue here is not the size of the aggression or the aggressive act that is committed against one party to the peace process. It is not a question of a large or small aggression. There is either an aggression and an aggressive act or there is not. If Israel is serious about its desire to achieve peace, then it must remove all consequences of that aggression, be they small or large.

Al-'Allaf added: Therefore, accepting the principle of withdrawal or partial withdrawal is not sufficient, there must be clear statement that Israel is prepared to make a complete withdrawal.

Regarding his expectations about what may happen during the third and last week in this round, al-'Allaf said: Anything could happen, because what is required is a change in the Israeli position that still refuses to abide by the principles of the peace process. However, regrettably, there are no signs that Israel will do that.

Jordanians Said Critical of Palestinian Delegation

JN2506070093 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 0600 GMT 25 Jun 93

[Hisham Milhim dispatch from Washington]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] Sources familiar with the minutes of the Palestinian-Jordanian meetings say that the Jordanian side has criticized the Palestinian delegation to the peace talks because they do not coordinate enough with the Jordanians and because they submit their papers to the Israelis before the Jordanians have had an opportunity to see them. The sources say that King Husayn and his prime minister, 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali, attended one of these meetings in which Nabil Sha'th, Faysal al-Husayni, and Akram Haniyyah represented the Palestinian side.

The sources cited the Jordanian prime minister as saying that the Palestinian delegation has always concentrated on the negative aspects of the negotiations and that it is time they openly point out that the negotiations have made some achievements. The prime minister voiced frustration because the standstill in the Palestinian track hampers any possible progress in the Jordanian track.

It is worth noting that the Jordanian prime minister expressed this stand first during his meeting with Nabil Sha'th and then repeated it in the presence of King Husayn during the expanded meeting.

Palestinian Position on Jerusalem Issue Detailed

TA2506111393 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 25 Jun 93 p A5

["Exclusive" report from Washington by Ori Nir]

[Text] The Palestinian delegation to the peace talks has expressed willingness to accept the Israeli proposal for early empowerment, provided it is done in "the appropriate political context." Delegation members said that the context can be found in the joint declaration of principles Israel and the Palestinians have been attempting to draft through U.S. mediation.

This Palestinian position was not officially reflected at the negotiating table because, at present, the Palestinians want to focus all their efforts on the joint declaration of principles, which will define the framework of the Palestinian-Israeli negotiations. This was behind the Palestinian assertion in talks with Israel that they have not been mandated to discuss the early empowerment proposal.

The U.S. Administration is now drafting a declaration of principles that will furnish a solution acceptable to Israel and the Palestinians on the question of Jerusalem's status during the interim arrangement stage. Palestinian delegation sources said they would be ready to accept a compromise combining a functional solution with a territorial solution on the matter of the interim arrangements' applicability to Jerusalem.

According to them, there is a possibility to agree that only areas adjunct to Jerusalem—those that are part of the city's municipal boundaries but are not part of Jerusalem proper—will be included in the interim arrangements' applicability framework, but East Jerusalem will not be defined as part of the applicability framework.

"Historical" East Jerusalem—the Old City and neighborhoods surrounding it—will be subject to the functional

arrangements. This means that it will not be included in the boundaries of the interim arrangements' territorial jurisdiction, although these arrangements will be functionally applicable to its population: East Jerusalem residents will participate in elections to autonomy institutions, and all the autonomy arrangements—except the territorial dimension—will apply to them.

The Palestinians, who presented these demands as their minimum position, emphasized that an agreement on the issue of territorial jurisdiction may permit them to be more flexible on other issues featuring in the joint declaration of principles.

They added that a firm and substantive declaration of principles, which sets down general principles for the implementation of the interim arrangements, will provide them with a political framework that will enable them to begin the transfer of powers from the Israeli authorities to the territories.

Several Palestinian elements in Washington said in recent days that the Palestinian delegation is very seriously considering the Israeli proposal for an early transfer of some of the Civil Administration's powers in the territories.

According to them, Palestinian figures have recently begun exploring possibilities of raising financial resources that will assist in the peaceful transfer of extensive portions of the Israeli Civil Administration's responsibilities to Palestinian hands. One of the Palestinian leadership's primary concerns is the transfer of powers and budgets pertaining to public services: They fear that unless the Palestinians find resources that will quickly and considerably improve the quality of these services, the Palestinian delegates and the peace process will lose a great deal of credibility among the territories population.

Sources in the Israeli delegation pointed out yesterday that Israel's "early empowerment" proposal supports the immediate transfer to the Palestinians of a large part of the Civil Administration's powers in spheres endowed with large budgets and personnel, such as education and health. The transfer of powers will not replace the interim arrangements and is not designed to incorporate the Palestinians in the Israeli Civil Administration system.

Israelis Promise To Review Detainees' Sentences

TA2406172193 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Arabic 1630 GMT 24 Jun 93

[Text] The Israeli delegation has promised the Palestinian side to study the list of names of Palestinian detainees in Israeli prisons and explore the possibility of reducing the sentences or releasing some of them. This came at a meeting of the human rights working group in the current round of Israeli-Palestinian talks in Washington.

Inter-Arab Affairs

Arab League Appeals for End to Somali Fighting

NC2406124093 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1101 GMT 24 Jun 93

[Text] Cairo, 24 Jun (MENA)—The Arab League called on all the concerned parties in Somalia to exercise self-restraint and adhere to Security Council Resolution 733, which calls on the UN secretary general—in cooperation with the Arab League, the OAU, and the Islamic Conference Organization—to pressure the parties to the Somali crisis to stop fighting and help to reach a political solution to the conflict.

In a statement today, the Arab League Secretariat said the deteriorating situation in Somalia was primarily caused by the tribal conflict waged by some domestic Somali forces that have no regard for Somalia's supreme interests. It also appealed to the United Nations to immediately undertake the task of disarming the warring groups to achieve security and stability throughout Somalia.

The Arab League statement called on all the Somali parties to reach an agreement that achieves national accord in implementation of the resolutions passed at the Addis Ababa conference on Somali reconciliation earlier this year.

The statement said the Arab League is deeply concerned and is closely following the escalating painful events in Somalia, which have increased tension and violence, adding that this will undermine Somalia's national security and that of the entire Horn of Africa region. The statement strongly condemned the escalating wave of killing and violence in Somalia.

Islamic Affairs

ICO Presents Declaration on Bosnia-Herzegovina

LD2406161293 Tehran IRNA in English 1506 GMT 24 Jun 93

[Text] Vienna, June 24, IRNA—Members of the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC) here Thursday [24 June] introduced draft of a special declaration on Bosnia-Herzegovina to be included in the final resolution of the U.N. World Conference on Human Rights.

Addressing the delegates, head of the Pakistani delegation Agha Shahi said: "The world conference launched an appeal a few days ago to the Security Council to take the necessary measures to stop the genocide in Bosnia-Herzegovina. To our infinite regret this appeal has, as yet, evoked no response. Meanwhile, the genocide continues."

Stressing that a U.N. member state had been subjected to aggression, he added that 1.5 million Bosnian people had so far been uprooted and half a million driven into besieged enclaves. "Fifty thousand girls and women [have been] subjected to systematic rape as an instrument of war strategy and thousands of children traumatised by harrowing experiences from which they may never recover," he said.

The Pakistani official deplored the fact that the entire Bosnian people had been driven to despair and said they had no choice but to defend themselves or die. "Our response, the response of the world conference, to the only recognized case of genocide since the Second World War must be proportionate to the crime, categoric, effective and immediate," Agha Shahi stressed.

He reiterated that the absence of forthright action by the international community would only expose the "ineffectiveness and weakness of the different organs of the united nations," as well as that of several governments, before the most brutal and flagrant violation of human rights.

It would be inconceivable, he emphasized, if the world conference should end without clearly pronouncing its position on the tragic situation in Bosnia-Hergezovina. "Our conference must issue a clear and strong message of support and sympathy for the brutalized people of Bosnia-Herzegovina, and give its clear guidance on the immediate and resolute action which needs to be taken," said the Pakistani official.

Meanwhile, he noted, plans had been put forward by the aggressor to partition a member state of the United Nations. "This is tantamount to rewarding aggression, and is in total violation of the basic principle of territorial integrity."

Stressing that such a partition plan envisaged the ghettoisation of nearly half of the population of Bosnia-Herzegovina into less than a tenth of its territory, Agha Shahi said, "that is why we are introducing a short amendment to the operative part of the draft special declaration.

"The world conference categorically rejects the aggressor plan to partition the Republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina," Agha Shahi quoted the amendment as reading.

He added that Bosnian people who were subjected to genocide had also been subjected to an arms embargo. "The denial of the inherent right to self-defence to the non-Serb and notably Muslim people of Bosnia-Herzegovina has led to the slaughter of the Bosnian Muslims."

He stressed that it was the hope of the co-sponsors of the draft special declaration that it would be carried by consensus and that the membership of the world conference would demonstrate the same solidarity that it did during the course of its earlier appeal.

Palestinian Affairs

'Arafat Asks Yeltsin To Stop U.S. Draft Declaration

JN2506103093 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 25 Jun 93 pp 1, 25

[By Riyad Mansur]

[Text] Amman—Well-informed Palestinian sources have revealed that Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat sent a secret letter to Russian President Boris Yeltsin that was delivered by PLO Executive Committee member Mahmud 'Abbas, also known as Abu-Mazin, who suddenly arrived in Moscow at dawn yesterday.

These sources told SAWT AL-SHA'B that President 'Arafat asked the Russian president to immediately intercede with the U.S. Administration in order to halt the new U.S. draft for a joint Palestinian-Israeli declaration of principles that is currently being prepared by Dennis Ross, special coordinator on the peace talks, and that will be imposed on the two sides.

The Palestinian sources said that in his letter to the Russian president, President 'Arafat expressed great concern about the new U.S. draft declaration because it will be an extention of the draft declaration presented by the U.S. Administration last May, to which the Palestinian leadership presented 53 objections.

These sources added that in his letter, the Palestinian president confronted the Russian president with his responsibilities, in his capacity as the leader of a country that is a cosponsor of the peace conference. He also urged him to invigorate the Russian role and adopt a positive stand toward the ongoing peace talks.

SAWT AL-SHA'B has also learned that President 'Arafat decided to keep the Fatah Central Committee in session. He called on the PLO Executive Committee and the Fatah Revolutionary Council to convene due to the seriousness of the new U.S. draft declaration.

Sources from the Fatah Central Committee said that a decision was made to form a committee to follow up the call for a comprehensive national dialogue. The committee includes Hani al-Hasan, 'Abbas Zaki, Nasr Yusuf, and Sakhr Habash.

The situation has calmed down since the differences and heated debates that permeated the Fatah Central Committee meetings, prompting President 'Arafat to tender his resignation from the Fatah Movement's leadership—a resignation that he later withdrew.

The Fatah Movement Central Committee finished discussing the issue of national unity yesterday evening after which it began a general discussion of the Fatah Movement and PLO's financial file.

'Arafat Adviser on OAU, Peace Talks Requirements

NC2406114093 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0906 GMT 24 Jun 93

[Text] Cairo, 24 Jun (MENA)—Salman al-Harfi, Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat's adviser on African affairs, has praised Africa's continuing support for the Palestinian cause. He noted that since it was founded, the OAU has developed its position on the Palestinian people's struggle. At first, the OAU fully recognized the PLO and, on every international forum, demanded the Palestinian people's right to self-determination and to establishing their own independent state.

In an interview with MENA, he said: Our stance at the African ministerial meeting is to persist in asking the United States to resume and maintain dialogue with the PLO, the legitimate and sole representative of the Palestinian people. He added: We demand that the PLO publicly participate in the peace negotiations in Washington on the grounds that the Palestinian delegation receives its orders from the PLO. We also demand a halt to the repressive Israeli measures in the occupied Arab territories and the implementation of the Fourth Geneva Convention on citizens under occupation.

He said the Palestinian paper presented to the African Ministerial Council asserts the fundamental constants of the Palestinian people's struggle and their inalienable rights and denounces Israel's efforts to hamper the peace talks in Washington.

He added that through its paper to the council session, the PLO demands the full implementation and nonpartition of Security Council Resolution 799 on the Palestinian deportees and does not accept the issue being placed on the sidelines, because it will be seen as a precedent in international law.

The council's draft resolution appeals to Israel to implement fully Security Council Resolution 799. None of this resolution's provisions have been implemented and none of the 400 Palestinian deportees have returned.

On the results of the current Palestinian-Israeli talks in Washington, al-Harfi said Israel is still blocking the success of this round of negotiations. He added: We have presented a clear and frank declaration of principles that has been published in all the newspapers. Israel is using every means to block this declaration.

He noted that the Palestinians and Israelis differ over the basic principles, such as Jerusalem, the right to self-determination, sovereignty over the land, and the removal of the settlements. He emphasized that all these are fundamental differences with Israel, which clings to form rather than substance. He said Israel seeks to perpetuate the occupation and the Palestinian people want to be rid of the occupation in the context of the principle of land for peace.

He said the training of Palestinians in Jordan in maintaining security as a Palestinian police force that may take charge of security in the Palestinian territories during the transitional period is a Palestinian affair.

As for the Washington talks, he said Israel creates obstacles and tries to evade UN resolutions, especially Resolutions 242 and 338. He asserted that the PLO understands these two resolutions apply to all fronts and Arab tracks, but Israel insists on not applying them to the Palestinian track.

Concluding the interview, al-Harfi asserted there are no differences within the negotiating Palestinian delegation in Washington. He denied reports of differences between Faysal al- Husayni, head of the advisory committee of the negotiating delegation, and delegation head Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi.

Editorial Calls U.S. Israel's 'Advocate' at Talks

TA2406161793 Jerusalem AL-QUDS in Arabic 24 Jun 93 p 9

[Editorial: "The Palestinian-U.S. Talks"]

[Text] It is becoming obvious from the evolution of the negotiating process during the 10th round that this process has begun to take a new twist concerning the Palestinian side. It has become clear that the U.S. side is interpreting "its full and active partnership" as direct involvement in a parallel negotiating process. This might be even more important than what takes place during official negotiations. Clearly the Palestinian side has first of all to negotiate with the U.S. side to achieve progress on the Palestinian-Israeli negotiating track.

Twenty months after the start of the negotiating process, it is no secret to anyone that the U.S. side is playing a role exceeding that of "broker." It has become Israel's "advocate" at the talks. U.S. bias toward Israel is so obvious that it cannot be subject to doubt or interpretation. This bias goes beyond all the U.S. Administration's rhetorical "assurances" about lack of bias toward any party. The retreat from the terms of reference that the negotiating process was based on, is clear and flagrant proof of the role being played by the U.S. side.

Intensive talks through various channels are taking place at present between the U.S. and Palestinian sides. The U.S. aim from these talks is now clear. The Americans have reached a basic conclusion to the effect that the negotiating process will remain deadlocked unless the fundamental principles governing this process are determined. Since the new U.S. Administration wants to detach itself from the previous administration's commitments to this process, especially to the Palestinian side despite the fact that as far as this side is concerned those commitments were inadequate, this new administration has directly insisted from the beginning of the ninth round that a declaration of principles be reached between the Palestinian and Israeli parties.

Since the Israeli stance on such a declaration adheres to principles that are absolutely unacceptable to the Palestinians as a focal point governing the course and content of the negotiating process, the U.S. side started exerting pressure on the Palestinian side. The Americans, who are supposed to be so impartial that the negotiating parties feel confident of the lack of bias, began to show their bias in practice. They did so especially through attempts to exert pressure and persuade the Palestinian side to adopt the Israeli stance, wrapped in flexible U.S. formulas that in the final analysis would be interpreted, within the prevailing balance of forces, in Israel's favor.

Apparently, the negotiating process will remain stalled until one of two things happen. Either the United States achieves what it wants by managing to elicit Palestinian agreement to a declaration of principles that does not respond to basic Palestinian conditions, or the U.S. Administration reassesses its role in the negotiating process by restoring the Palestinian party's trust in its position. This trust will not

be restored unless the Palestinian side is convinced that the U.S. side is not biased toward Israel and is not playing the role of Israel's advocate in this complex negotiating process.

Crises at Fatah Central Committee Meetings Detailed

Criticism of 'Arafat Reported

PM2406150193 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 23 Jun 93 p 3

[Political Studies Center report: "'Arafat Requested Punishment of Hani al-Hasan, But They Reacted by Criticizing His Single-Handed Policy"]

[Excerpts] London—The storm that swept the Fatah Central Committee's recent meetings has somewhat subsided, and mediators may have been able to contain the matter of Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat's resignation, but what is definite and certain is that all this is a mere calming down and that everything is not fine. Available information indicates that this crisis, far from being just a passing storm, has created many new crises.

Before discussing future possibilities, we should first give some details of what happened during the meetings and cast some light on the real issue that nearly resulted in an explosion at the meetings and in a new split in a movement which has suffered many divisions in the past and which is considered to be the backbone of the PLO.

As we know, Fatah's Central Committee—which had been convened to discuss the Palestinian situation and peace process developments—held its first session last Saturday [19 June] in Tunis. The session, uncomfortable from the very beginning as heads were turned and hearts were in disagreement, was meant to prepare the agenda of topics to be discussed in the period allocated for the session.

After some debate, hints, and innuendos, it was agreed that the main Palestinian issues would go on the agenda, especially Fatah's organizational situation, the situation in the occupied territory including the tense relations with Hamas, national dialogue, and the negotiations and peace process.

As soon as the agenda, as outlined above, was agreed upon, Abu-'Ammar ['Arafat] surprised his colleagues by requesting discussion of the position of Hani al-Hasan, Fatah Central Committee member and former political adviser to 'Arafat, before discussion of any other matter or any topic on the agenda.

Several Central Committee members tried to persuade 'Arafat to let the discussion of Hani al-Hasan's position be part of the discussion of Fatah's organizational matters, but he insisted on his stance and said, among other things, that he, Abu-'Ammar, feared for the secrecy of the Palestinian leadership's meetings so long as they were attended by Hani al-Hasan, and insisted that al-Hasan's position be discussed first and a decision made on it before starting discussion of any item on the agenda.

Over the past year 'Arafat has frequently accused Hani al-Hasan of deliberately leaking news of Fatah and the Palestinian leadership's secrets to the opposition's Hamas movement and others, including some Arab states that have differences with the PLO.

Furthermore, 'Arafat frequently and openly accused Hani al-Hasan of having tried and continuing to try to undermine the PLO's relations with certain Arab states such as Egypt, Jordan, and Syria, and of passing to them erroneous and distorted reports on the PLO's meetings and positions. He also accused Hani al-Hasan of entering into an alliance with the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine [DFLP] led by Nayif Hawatimah against the Palestinian leadership and the Palestinian delegation to the Middle East peace negotiations.

Actually, relations between 'Arafat and his political adviser began to deteriorate and collapse two years ago when Hani al-Hasan felt that the Palestinian president was relying on other advisers such as Nabil Sha'th. [passage omitted]

Hani al-Hasan in fact found many sympathizers in the Central Committee and in the leadership and rank and file frameworks, for many have suffered and are fed up with Abu-'Ammar's disregard for them and his monopoly of all responsibilities and decisions relating to administrative, financial, and organizational affairs. [passage omitted]

The Central Committee members who have suffered most and who felt that 'Arafat planned to "shelve" them saw these latest meetings as their opportunity. So, as soon as the Palestinian president insisted on opening Hani al-Hasan's file first, they found the courage to raise their voices requesting that 'Arafat's political, leadership, administrative, and financial file be opened.

Faced with the demands of those "sufferers" for an end to 'Arafat's single-handed tackling of financial, administrative, and political matters, and everything else, the Palestinian president resorted to his old weapon by withdrawing from the meetings and insisting on resigning not only from Fatah but also from the presidency and chairmanship of the PLO Executive Committee. [passage omitted]

Faced with that situation, the Central Committee also resorted to its old tactics. It formed a delegation consisting of Abu-al-Lutf [Faruq Qaddumi] and Abu-Mazin [Mahmud 'Abbas] to try to pacify 'Arafat. He was pacified and returned to the meetings Saturday evening, and then attended another meeting Monday morning before going to Switzerland to meet with Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister Tariq 'Aziz.

Dialogue Committee Formed

PM2406110493 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 23 Jun 93 p1

['Ali Salih report: "National Dialogue Committee Formed With Hani al-Hasan as Chairman"]

[Text] London—Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat has moved to contain the dispute that broke out during Fatah Central Committee's meetings, which began last Saturday [19 June] in the Tunisian capital. It had been reported that

during these meetings 'Arafat submitted his resignation in protest against the way some of the committee members, particularly Muhammad Ghunaym (Abu-Mahir), reacted when 'Arafat requested that the name of Hani al-Hasan be placed on the agenda for discussion.

A Fatah responsible source has told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that the Central Committee, at the session it held the evening of the day before yesterday, agreed "to form a new committee from some members of the Central Committee to enhance national unity and start an expanded national dialogue with the other Palestinian factions."

According to that official, "Hani al-Hasan has been appointed chairman of that committee, which also includes Central Committee Members 'Abbas Zaki and Nasr Yusuf, as well as Fatah Revolutionary Council Secretary Hamdan."

Asked if 'Arafat had withdrawn his decision to put Hani al-Hasan's name on the agenda, the official said that "the meetings were attended by all members except those who were absent to begin with."

He added that "the appointment of Hani al-Hasan as chairman of the committee means that the dispute has been resolved." He said that "because of the vast media campaign, 'Arafat decided that it was necessary to put an end to the rumors."

Territories Situation Discussed

NC2406141193 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1220 GMT 24 Jun 93

[Text] Tunis, 24 Jun (MENA)—The Fatah Central Committee [FCC] has called on the Fatah Revolutionary Council [FRC] to hold a session on 18 July. The FCC will hold a meeting two days before the council's session.

This came in an exclusive statement to MENA in Tunis by al-Tayyib 'Abd-al-Rahim, FCC member and Palestinian ambassador to Jordan. He said the FCC decided at the end of its work early today to form a Palestinian committee to supervise a dialogue among the Palestinian factions that are PLO members. 'Abd-al-Rahim said the committee will start its work soon and will hold contacts with the various factions concerned.

In his statement, the Palestinian official said that during its four days of meetings, the FCC discussed all the issues concerning the Palestinian problem. He described all the meetings as crucial and successful with regard to the resolutions that were adopted on the political, internal, and financial situation and on the media onslaught against the Palestinian leadership.

Al-Tayyib 'Abd-al-Rahim maintained that the FCC has adopted several resolutions that will help to escalate the intifadah and curb excessive acts fomented by some people inside the occupied territories.

The Palestinian official said the FCC has also discussed the situation in the occupied territories in light of the comprehensive report compiled by President Yasir 'Arafat. The report touches on the increasing killings and violence in the territories and on the iron-fist policy pursued by Rabin's government against the Palestinian citizens in addition to closing the occupied territories and isolating occupied Jerusalem. He said the FCC adopted several resolutions to confront the situation.

On political events and the peace talks, al-Tayyib 'Abd-al-Rahim said the FCC has reiterated its commitment to the Palestinian constants decided by the Palestine National Council at its last session on Palestinian participation in the peace process. He said the FCC has called on the peace conference sponsors, particularly the United States, European Community, China, and Japan, to shoulder their responsibilities in advancing the peace process and finding a just and comprehensive solution to the Palestinian issue.

Al-Tayyib 'Abd-al-Rahim said the FCC has called for increasing the effective coordination among the Arab parties concerned with the peace process to advance this process and endeavor to achieve Arab solidarity and overcome the negative aspects of the previous stage.

The FCC met under President Yasir 'Arafat on 20 June and ended its meetings early today.

Meetings Summarized

LD2406182593 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 24 Jun 93

[Text] The Central Committee of the Palestine Liberation Organization, Fatah, has ended a series of meetings that began on Saturday, 19 June, under the chairmanship of brother Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat].

During its meetings, the committee discussed developments in the current political situation, the process of peaceful settlement, and assessed the process from its outset and the bases on which it was set off. The letters of guarantee and invitation, President Bush's initiative and commitment to the bases of international legitimacy.

The committee defined the obstacles put in the way of the process by the governments of Shamir and Rabin and the bias of the Bush and Clinton administrations toward the Israeli side at the expense of the Palestinian people's legitimate rights far away from the pledges made by the two administrations.

The committee stressed the need to work by all means and with all the sides to strengthen Arab coordination, particularly with the cordon countries, in order to correct the path of progress toward commitment to the bases of international legitimacy, the implementation of UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 and the principle of land for peace that applies to all the territories occupied in 1967, including Jerusalem.

The Central Committee stressed the significance of the role played by our movement inside the occupied territories in strengthening and developing the future of the land and strengthening national unity toward the imposition of national independence and establishment of an independent Palestinian state. It stressed the importance of making the role of the Russian sponsor more effective and to push

for a more effective role by the United Nations, permanent members of the Security Council, Japan, and friendly countries.

The committee also discussed the internal, organizational, military, and financial situation and made appropriate decisions to face the current circumstances in a way that will serve the process and strengthen the movement's cohesion to bolster Palestinian national unity on the basis of the importance of the movement's role in the Palestinian arena, and the need to involve all the capabilities and activities of our people to stand united in the trench of confrontation.

The Central Committee has set up a special committee to prepare for the overall Palestinian national dialogue within the framework of the PLO, the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people.

The committee decided to invite the Revolutionary Council to convene during the second half of next month [July] in light of the results of and as a follow-up to the 10th round of Arab-Israeli talks. The committee also decided to leave its session open.

AL-FAJR Newspaper To Close for Financial Reasons

TA2506091393 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 25 Jun 93 p A1

[Excerpt] The East Jerusalem Palestinian paper AL-FAJR will close down in July for financial reasons.

The staff at the paper, which has been appearing since 1969, received their pink slips yesterday in which Jonathan Kuttab, the paper's lawyer, wrote: "The economic crisis afflicting all our national institutions has not bypassed AL-FAJR, and today the owners are forced to inform all workers that their employment will be terminated within 30 days."

AL-FAJR employs some 50 workers full time, as well as 50 part-time workers, in various cities in the territories.

The paper is considered Fatah's mouthpiece in the territories. Palestinian sources noted that the decision to close it down was made by Yasir 'Arafat himself and that the closure comes in the context of the elimination of journalistic institutions operating in the territories and affiliated with the mainstream of Fatah. Because of the serious financial crisis, 63 press offices and minor media organizations that had been financed by Fatah have been shut down recently. [passage omitted]

Algeria

FLN Proposes Working Groups for National Dialogue

LD2506093693 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 0600 GMT 25 Jun 93

[Excerpt] The National Liberation Front [FLN] disclosed yesterday, in a press release, the content of its proposals to the chairman of the Higher State Council [HSC] on its stance on the provisional program for national concord. The proposals coincided with the start of the ordinary meeting of the FLN party Central Committee. More details with Hizia Hideb.

[Hideb] The proposals, which were included in the message to the HSC dated 22 June on the organization of the next stage of the dialogue, called for the setting up of a number of working groups. Each one of them should contribute to the enrichment of the dialogue only in one subject and coordinate their findings before publishing them in one document to be discussed further later. In this respect the FLN party Political Bureau has proposed the setting up of seven groups. The first group will examine how to contain the chain of violence; the second group will examine the measures that would bring back peace to the society; the third group will examine how to return to constitutional life; and the fourth will examine how to return to the electoral process. The remaining three groups will examine the necessary measures to liberate the political action and the media, define an agenda with main points of action in the economic and social spheres, and establish how to create a body for follow up and coordination between the the HSC and the rest of parties taking part in the dialogue. The FLN secretary general concluded his message by asserting that his party is ready to take part in those groups if the proposals are adopted by everyone. [passage omitted]

Abdessalam Addresses Officials on Terrorism, Problems

LD2406215993 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 24 Jun 93

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] Prime Minister Belaid Abdessalam delivered a speech to the cadres of the Algiers wilaya who are participating in the special seminar on the future management of Algiers. Here is a report by Ahmed Magash.

[Magash] In his speech to the cadres of the Algiers wilaya, Belaid Abdesselam spoke about many problems the country is facing. The phenomenon of undermining stability by way of assassination was regarded by the head of the government as a continuation of the declared war on the Algerian people, as he stated on the day when there was an explosion at Houari Boumedienne Airport at the hands of people hostile to the establishment of a strong Algerian state.

[Begin Abdessalam] I wonder: Is it a crime in this country for one to be educated? I wonder: Is it a crime in this country for one to think? I wonder: Is it a crime in this country for one to serve his own people, society, and nation? At any rate, as we said, is it a crime to preserve the state, defend the state, watch over justice, and watch over anything which is the basis for human and social organization, to organize us as a society? [end recording]

[Magash] The head of government recalled the measures that the state has taken to combat terrorism—a policy the government is continuing—but this does not concern the security official alone; it should be an issue which concerns all Algerians.

In talking about the management of the capital and the burden Algiers suffers under in various fields, the head of government reaffirmed that the solution of the capital's problems should be within a well-studied, long-term, practical plan and should not be done in isolation from a comprehensive solution of the country's problems.

Abdessalam then referred to the tendentious campaign on what his government has achieved by some quarters who are exploiting the critical circumstances through which the country is passing. The head of government reviewed all the measures which have been implemented to face the situation internally and externally in connection with the protection of the national economy, an effort, as he put it, which was planned to halt the deterioration witnessed by Algeria last summer.

The head of government referred to anti-government practices by some groups which have interests, which are in fact groups searching for a secure place and a humble person to protect their interests. Abdesselam reaffirmed his invitation to the patriots and youth to confront the policy of misrepresenting the groups which have interests and can defend the state and the homeland.

Twelve Absent Islamists, 2 Others Sentenced to Death

LD2406144593 Paris Radio France International in French 1230 GMT 24 Jun 93

[Text] In Algeria yesterday the special court in Constantine pronounced 12 death sentences, of which 10 are in absentia. All those condemned are Islamists accused of threatening the security of the state.

Egypt

Musa Meets With Sudanese, Libyan Counterparts

NC2406170393 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1557 GMT 24 Jun 93

[Text] Cairo, 24 Jun (MENA)—Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa, Libyan Foreign Liaison Secretary 'Umar al-Muntasir, and Sudanese Foreign Minister Husayn Abu-Salih held a second, 75-minute meeting today on the sidelines of the OAU ministerial meeting.

According to OAU ministerial conference sources, consultations between the three aimed at bridging the differences between Egypt and Sudan. The same sources said that following the meeting, the Sudanese foreign minister went to his quarters in Cairo to telephone Lieutenant General 'Umar al-Bashir, chairman of the Sudanese Revolutionary

Command Council for National Salvation. The same sources added that the three officials will resume their consultations later today.

Musa Comments on Algerian Leader's Upcoming Visit

LD2406202993 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 24 Jun 93

[Interview with Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa on the upcoming visit by Ali Kafi, chairman of the Algerian Higher State Council, by an unidentified correspondent in Cairo on 24 June—recorded]

[Text] [Musa] It will please us to receive Ali Kafi, chairman of the Higher State Council in sister Algeria, on 25 June. Egypt is always pleased to coordinate with sister Algeria, with which we have many links in religion, Arabism, history, struggle, and everything. Naturally, the presence of President Ali Kafi at the OAU summit in Cairo will be a good opportunity for consultations between President Husni Mubarak and President Ali Kafi to consolidate the common march within the African framework and other frameworks between the two fraternal states.

[Correspondent] If you please, relations between Algeria and Egypt are distinguished relations, and the circumstances are distinguished too, as Algeria and Egypt are living through these circumstances. Can you say something about the dimensions and aim of this visit? Is there a program for coordination between Algeria and Egypt?

[Musa] Coordination is taking place and is continuing, taking into consideration the circumstances in which the Arab region as a whole is passing. I believe that this coordination will be for the benefit of both peoples, the Arab peoples, and the Arab march as a whole. Thank you. [end recording]

Mubarak Receives Congolese President's Message

NC2406130693 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0839 GMT 24 Jun 93

[Excerpt] Cairo, 24 Jun (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak today received a written message from Congolese President Pascal Lissouba on relations between the two fraternal countries.

Congolese Foreign Minister Benjamin Bounkoulou delivered the message during his audience with the president today. The Congolese official is attending the African Ministerial Council meetings in Cairo. [passage omitted]

Two 'Terrorist Fugitives' Killed by Police

NC2406122093 Cairo MENA in English 1049 GMT 24 Jun 93

[Text] Asyut, Upper Egypt, June 24 (MENA)—Two terrorist fugitives were killed and an unidentified person was injured in clashes with the security forces during a security campaign to clamp down on fugitives and wanted persons in the governorate last night.

Thirteen machine guns and many live ammunition were seized. Investigations are under way.

Police Arrest Man in Connection With Abu Tij Attack

NC2406184693 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1515 GMT 24 Jun 93

[Excerpt] Cairo, 24 Jun (MENA)—[passage omitted] According to an official Interior Ministry source, security organs, acting on a tipoff from the inhabitants of Musha village near Asyut, have arrested the man who killed Thabit Bakkarah, a noncommissioned police officer in the Abu Tij Police Force, last night.

The assailant, Hazim Muhammad Bakhit, a medical college student and a known member of terrorist organizations, hails from Salamun village in Suhaj Governorate. The terrorist was wearing a white robe under which he had on jeans and a multicolored shirt. He was wearing sneakers without socks. Traces of mud and fresh grass were found on his trousers. He was found in possession of an automatic gun and two magazines, one of them empty and the other containing 25 rounds of the same caliber used in the attack. The Prosecution Office is investigating the case.

Bahrain

Foreign Minister Meets Defense Secretary Aspin

JN2406181193 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1720 GMT 24 Jun 93

[Excerpt] Washington, 24 Jun (WAKH)—Bahraini Foreign Minister Shaykh Muhammad Bin-Mubarak Al Khalifah, currently visiting the United States, conferred in Washington today with U.S. Defense Secretary Les Aspin.

Discussions at the meeting dealt with bilateral relations and cooperation in various fields that concern the two sides and the security and stability of the Gulf region.

Discussions also dealt with the situation in the region in light of current international developments [word indistinct] measures that ensure security and stability in this vital region.

The U.S. secretary welcomed Shaykh Muhammad Bin-Mubarak Al Khalifah and expressed U.S. appreciation of the role the State of Bahrain plays in cooperation with the United States [words indistinct] the U.S. defense secretary explained the U.S. policy adopted by the administration of U.S. President Bill Clinton, which attaches great importance to the Gulf region. [indistinct passage]

Saudi Arabia

Customs Official on Moves Against Narcotics Smuggling

LD2406220993 Riyadh SPA in English 1934 GMT 24 Jun 93

[Text] Riyadh, June 24, SPA—Hamad al-Rushudi, the director general of Customs Department, has lauded the successful efforts exerted by the government of Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz for the protection of the Saudi society from the menace of drugs.

In a statement on the occasion of the international day for combatting drugs, which falls on Saturday, al-Rushudi said the kingdom has been shouldering its responsibility towards combatting drugs.

He noted that the existing coordination in this respect among the concerned authorities like the Customs Department, the General Administration for Combatting Drugs and the Border Corps has yielded positive results.

Thanks to the vigilance of the concerned authorities and the implementation of capital punishment against smugglers of drugs, cases of drugs trafficking have remarkably dropped, he said.

Despite the sizeable area of the kingdom, yet the Customs Department has mobilized its human and material potentialities to prevent smuggling of drugs into the country, he added.

Al-Rushudi noted that the Customs Department has set up training programs to enable its personnel to perform their mission in a satisfactory manner.

Al-Rushudi pointed out that the Customs Department has set up a special administration for combatting smuggling of drugs.

With the grace of the Almighty God and the excellent training methods being adopted, the customs officials have become capable of detecting the smugglers, he said.

Al-Rushudi warned the citizens and residents against carrying baggage of the others when they either depart or come to the kingdom.

Sometimes the smugglers of drugs try to fool the passenger, he said.

Moreover al-Rushudi called the citizens and residents to cooperate with the officials of the Customs Department in combatting the menace of drugs.

Yemen

Vice President al-Bid Receives PFLP's Habash

JN2506133393 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 25 Jun 93

[Text] Brother 'Ali Salim al-Bid, vice chairman of the Presidential Council and secretary general of the Central Committee of the Yemeni Socialist Party [YSP], at his office today received brother Dr. George Habash, secretary general of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine [PFLP], and the delegation accompanying him.

During the meeting, they reviewed the warm relations existing between the Yemeni and Palestinian revolutions as well as the most recent Arab and international developments.

Presidential Council Vice Chairman 'Ali Salim al-Bid reiterated our country's support for the Palestinian Arab people's struggle to restore all their legitimate rights.

PFLP Secretary General brother Dr. George Habash congratulated our country's political leadership and the Yemeni people on the success of the parliamentary elections in our country on 27 April, noting his admiration and appreciation of this new democratic experience in our country. He also briefed the brother Presidential Council vice chairman on the most recent developments in the Palestinian arena in light of the escalation of the valiant Palestinian intifadah and the Palestinian people's steadfastness in the face of Zionist schemes.

The meeting was attended by brother Dr. Yasin Sa'id Nu'man, member of the YSP Political Bureau and head of the Secretariat of the YSP Central Committee, and Dr. 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Dali, member of the YSP Political Bureau and secretary of the Political Department at the Central Committee Secretariat.

Vice President Leaves for U.S. for Medical Treatment

JN2506123893 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 25 Jun 93

[Text] Presidential Council Vice Chairman brother 'Ali Salim al-Bid left for the United States today on a private visit. While there, he will undergo some medical checkups and receive medical treatment.

Two Said Killed, Over 50 Hurt in Nightclub Blast

NC2406173693 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi People in Arabic 1400 GMT 24 Jun 93

[Text] A time bomb exploded in front of a nightclub frequented by the despotic regime's officials and wealthy aides. An urgent REUTER's report from Amman said at least two people were killed and over 50 wounded in the blast, which rocked Baghdad after midnight on Friday [18 June].

REUTER quoted eyewitnesses and diplomats as saying the ground shook in the explosion. Fires and columns of smoke rose high into the sky. An eyewitness said he saw scores of ambulances racing to the scene. He also reported seeing a burned-out Japanese car. Diplomats said the explosion came from plastic explosives attached to a timer. Another eyewitness said the regime's guards arrived, sealed off the street, and detained the club's clients for interrogation.

Tunisian President Cables Saddam on New Islamic Year

JN2406163493 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1515 GMT 24 Jun 93

[Text] Baghdad, 24 Jun (INA)—President Saddam Husayn has received a cable of congratulations from his brother Tunisian President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali on the new Islamic year. The cable reads: While the Islamic nation is celebrating the new Islamic year, I am pleased to express to Your Excellency, in my own name and on behalf of the Tunisian Government and people, my sincerest congratulations and best wishes for continued good health and happiness to you and further prosperity for the fraternal Iraqi people under your wise leadership.

Ramadan Confers With DFLP Political Bureau Member

JN2406152893 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1230 GMT 24 Jun 93

[Text] Baghdad, 24 Jun (INA)—Taha Yasin Ramadan, Revolution Command Council member and vice president, has received Saji Salamah, member of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine [DFLP] Political Bureau.

During the meeting, Ramadan stressed the unity, existence, and future of Arab destiny because the Arab nation has the same history, present, and future. This nation's strength and vigor emanate from its steadfastness and confrontation of hostile schemes and aggressions, Ramadan added.

The Iraqi vice president pointed out that the enemies, who converged on imposing their hostile policy and ambitions, are unable to realize their intentions and objectives against Iraq.

Salamah lauded President Saddam Husayn's leadership as well as the Iraqis' steadfastness and triumph over the Arab nation's enemies. He asserted that the Iraqis' steadfastness and resistance of all means of aggression is an additional strength for the intifadah activists in Palestine and for all Arabs.

AL-THAWRAH Tells UN To Keep 'Hands Off' Somalia

JN2506100293 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0740 GMT 25 Jun 93

[Text] Baghdad, 25 Jun (INA)—The newspaper AL-THAWRAH has said that what is happening in Somalia is U.S. aggression under the UN flag. The significance, objectives, and dimensions of this aggression are no different from those of the aggression against Iraq, which continues in the form of the blockade and interference in its internal affairs.

In an article today, the paper says: Evidence shows that the world organization has tied its position to that desired by the United States and the Western quarters, and that it is not interested in the views of the people or their aspirations to freedom and respect for national choices.

The paper adds: This evidence, which was wickedly hidden among the tactics through which the United Nations became a tool for the U.S. aggression against Iraq, is very clear in the events taking place now in Somalia.

The paper explains that the program, which the United Nations brought to Somalia and for which it mobilized such a military force, was not to save the hungry. It says: Those who have demonstrated and are still demonstrating against the UN authority are the same hungry people. The number of the hungry and those dying because of shortage in food and medicine have increased.

The paper adds: The equipment, weapons, and ammunition used by the United Nations to destroy the Somalis' resistance weighs much more than the food aid which it has distributed thus far.

The paper notes that the fanaticism that characterized the conduct of the United Nations in Somalia, its indifference to what is happening to the people of Bosnia-Herzegovina, and its insistence on maintaining the blockade against the people of Iraq confirms that it has no respect for human life and that it has turned into a military tool at the hands of imperialism.

The paper concludes its article by saying: If it is truly concerned about human life, as it claims to be, the United Nations must keep its hands off Somalia and reconsider all the measures it has taken against Iraq and other countries. This, the paper says, can only be achieved when the member states assume their duties and responsibilities.

Netanyahu on Swiss Transfer of Nuclear Arms Data

TA2506113093 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1100 GMT 25 Jun 93

[Text] Likud leader Binyamin Netanyahu says that Israel has known for a long time that Switzerland has been transferring sensitive and classified data pertaining to the manufacture of nuclear bombs to countries in the Middle East. Interviewed by our correspondent David Essing, Knesset Member Netanyahu said that during the Likud government's tenure, he himself participated in contacts with a senior Swiss Government representative in a bid to terminate such cooperation with Iraq prior to the Gulf war.

Peres: Americans Role 'Not Simple Proposition'

TA2506062793 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0405 GMT 25 Jun 93

[Telephone interview with Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres by Sheli Yehimovich—live]

[Text] [Yehimovich] We hear that the Americans are putting the final touches on a new draft for a joint Israeli-Palestinian document of principles. What everybody here wonders is: Why have they kept such a low profile so far? What are they actually waiting for? Why could they not present that same draft at the beginning of this round of talks?

[Peres] From the Americans' point of view, I believe they thought the previous draft would be enough to bridge the Israeli and Palestinian positions. I think they were quite surprised by the harsh and rather extreme Palestinian reaction. Nonetheless, bridging the gaps is not a simple proposition. In my opinion, we should be more sparing with words and instead try to elucidate the real issues on the agenda. I believe the Palestinians are hard pressed on several issues: the situation in the territories, the attitude of the Arab countries, their excessive suspiciousness of the United States. All these land mines must be removed.

[Yehimovich] When you say the Americans thought the existing formula would be enough, do you mean to say they believe they are evincing sufficient involvement at this stage?

[Peres] Yes, I think so. The Americans cannot replace either the Palestinians or Israel. They can act as go-betweens, but they cannot replace us. This is definitely a limitation, because it is hard to bring two sides that are separated by a broad gap closer together, although I personally believe that despite all the difficulties and gaps, there is a chance of overcoming these differences.

[Yehimovich] When Israeli Ambassador Itamar Rabinovich talks about changes in the Madrid format if the stalemate continues, what sort of changes does he have in mind?

[Peres] I think what he has in mind is going into detail about the final solution of the current situation. In other words, giving more weight under the present circumstances to elements pertaining to the more distant future. I would like to reiterate that I think we dwell too much on formulations. I am very much in favor of making a supreme effort to get rid of unnecessary verbosity.

[Yehimovich] I do not know whether you have seen today's morning and afternoon newspapers, but MA'ARIV's top story is a very comprehensive investigative report conducted by a team of its journalists titled: "Switzerland Is the Main Supplier of Aid to Iran in the Production of Atomic, Biological, and Chemical Weaponry." Do you know anything about it?

[Peres] No, I do not know about Switzerland. I know that several European countries have a forgiving attitude toward Iran, which is a fatal mistake. We are trying to win them over and make them aware of the Iranian threat, which in my opinion currently constitutes the greatest threat to security in the Middle East, not just to Israel but also to the Arabs. I am very glad that the United States has come out with the so-called dual containment policy—that is, containing both Iran and Iraq at the same time.

[Yehimovich] On a totally different sphere, 'AL HAMISHMAR carries a report on an area for which you are responsible, saying that an Israeli Arab will very soon be appointed ambassador to a CIS Muslim republic. Could you tell us who the man is?

[Peres] No, I will not disclose his name, although we have already decided who it is going to be, and his name will probably be disclosed within the next few days. Incidentally, he will not be assigned to a Muslim republic. I would rather assign him to a European country.

[Yehimovich] Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres, thank you very much and have a nice day.

Beilin Urges Increase in Talks' Level, U.S. Role

TA2406175893 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Arabic 1630 GMT 24 Jun 93

[Interview with Deputy Foreign Minister Yosi Beilin by Yoni Ben-Menahem in Bethlehem on 24 June—recorded in Hebrew]

[Text] [Ben-Menahem] How do you view the deadlock in the bilateral track in Washington? Do we intend to make any concession regarding Jerusalem?

[Beilin] We will not and cannot make any concessions on the issue of Jerusalem. In the conversations I had here today, I made it clear to the Palestinians that raising the issue of Jerusalem is tantamount to saying that they do not want to advance the talks at this time. This, to us, is the simplest interpretation of such a move. If they continue raising the issue of Jerusalem, we will also be unable to make progress because, when it comes to this matter, we have no intention of making any concessions whatsoever. At the same time I hope that one of the following will happen: Either the level of talks will be raised, or the U.S. involvement will increase, or both. Of the three options....

[Ben-Menahem, interrupting] When will this happen?

[Beilin] Look, it can happen today or tomorrow. I hope it will indeed happen, at least regarding greater U.S. involvement toward the end of the 10th round of talks, that is, by the beginning of July. I do not believe that any Middle East party interested in peace has time on its side.

[Ben-Menahem] Some Palestinians have noted the failure of the Madrid formula—the bilateral talks, the business of the tracks, and so on—and called for a new attitude to the talks, perhaps conducting them along the lines of Camp David or on the level of foreign ministers. What is you stand on the matter?

[Beilin] I am all for this. If we could hold the bilateral negotiations on the level of higher officials, or based on the Camp David model, which was a great success story, I would be very glad.

Savir: Talks Delegations Focusing on Declaration

TA2406180993 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1700 GMT 24 Jun 93

[Text] Foreign Ministry Director General Uri Savir says the peace talks this week have produced cautious optimism. Savir was speaking to reporters in Jerusalem today. Dani Gur-Arye has the story:

[Begin recording] [Gur-Arye] Good news and bad news, this is how the director general of the Foreign Ministry assesses the results in the latest round of peace talks between Israel and the Arab delegations. The good news, Uri Savir says, is that each of the delegations is focusing on a tangible, short-term goal. That is, agreeing on a joint declaration of principles. Such a declaration, Savir says, will help navigate the course of the talks. It would clarify the Syrian position on peace with Israel; in the case of the Palestinians, a declaration of goals would be a springboard for autonomy.

[Savir] If until now we spoke about the autonomy agreement being, more or less, the next milestone, we are really speaking now about an earlier milestone with broader agreements on principles that will make some of the aspects of the self-rule for the Palestinians possible for immediate implementation.

[Gur-Arye] The bad news, Savir says, is that progress toward reaching the joint declaration has been painfully slow. The Syrians first want an Israeli commitment to full withdrawal from the Golan Heights. The Palestinians want to discuss issues that, Savir says, are inappropriate at this stage, such as the status of Jerusalem. Savir hints that the key to bridging the gaps between the sides might be American involvement. One possibility would be an American proposal for phrasing some of the sensitive passages in the different declarations.

[Savir] And we believe the time has come, and we may see such a development in the coming days, where we pragmatically have to go into the wording of such an agreement—possibly with the help of our American friends.

[Gur-Arye] Once a joint declaration is signed, Savir says, the sides can then consider concrete issues, such as Gaza first. [end recording]

UN Envoy Asks U.S. To Ease Checkpoint Restrictions

TA2206192593 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Hebrew 1800 GMT 22 Jun 93

[Text] A group of Elat port workers along with local mayor's two deputies sailed this evening aboard an Israeli ship toward the Straits of Tiran, where the multinational force is deployed. The latter has been holding up the ship Zim Tokyo because of checks designed to enforce the embargo on Iraq. Our correspondent Shlomi Eldar reports that the workers are threatening to board Zim Tokyo at dawn and to sail it toward Elat without permission.

Meanwhile, Gad Ya'aqobi, Israel's ambassador to the United Nations, has sent a letter to U.S. Ambassador Madeleine Albright requesting that the United States see to easing the passage of Israeli ships to the port of Elat.

King Gives Address, Holds Meetings During U.S. Visit

Lectures at Brookings Institute

JN2406201293 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1735 GMT 24 Jun 93

[Address by King Husayn at Brookings Institution in Washington, D.C., on 23 June; in English with Arabic subtitles; followed by a question and answer session with unidentified speakers from the audience—recorded]

[Text] Good morning, ladies and gentlemen, and I would like to say at the outset that it is a privilege and an honor for me and for Queen Nur to be here amongst you today on behalf of Jordan, its people, its government, and to say how proud we have been with the friendships that have spanned these last forty years between our two countries—a friendship that was based on mutual respect and a desire to cooperate in bringing about conditions that are acceptable and are better for the coming generations, both in our region and in the world.

We identify with the United States our forefathers who carried out the Great Arab Revolt, identified closely with the ideals and principles upheld by the American founding fathers: Give me liberty or give me death. Patrick Henry's famous and always living words are not strange to us. We are here at an interesting moment. We've been warmly received and we have been vastly encouraged. I've had the privilege of meeting with the President of the United States, the vice president, secretary of state; I've visited with many friends. And in this world of very rapid change, I believe that the warmth has returned to our friendship and the sense of partnership as we seek to achieve our common objectives. And I believe that these relations will grow and become stronger with the passage of time, based on mutual respect and a desire to share together our experience as we move ahead to fulfill our duties to the best of our abilities.

I would like to speak a little bit about Jordan, and to say that I am proud to belong to it and to its people—a people who have grown throughout many difficulties, and matured, I believe, through bitter experiences and challenges that they faced bravely throughout their history.

It's a country with a past, it's at an important point in the world, it's a country of many treasures that every civilization has left us, it is a country of the young who are looking forward to a better future, it's a country of the free and the brave. The major assets has always been the human dimension in Jordan. And we have concentrated our best efforts to enable Jordanians to make their full contribution within the region and the world. Education, health care, but above all we have now ended four years since we returned to our favorite way of life in which we believe, to democracy, to parliamentary life, to power-sharing in shaping the future.

This was possible when finally we decided that we had to respond to a Palestinian, Arab, Islamic demand, and to disengage legally and administratively with the West Bank. Since 1967 we were unable to hold elections in our country, a great portion of it under occupation, and under occupation until this time. Under extremely difficult conditions, we have chartered our way, decided to have free elections. And we started another process, that of bringing together people of all schools of political thought in the country in a royal commission to formulate a national charter.

Nine months were spent in this process. But, as a result, the entire stand from the extreme right to the extreme left contributed toward giving us the clear vision of all Jordanians as regards their march, both now and in the future, under the Constitution and in respect of it.

The times that have passed have been difficult. Jordan has been at the receiving end of every disaster that befell that region. Jordan has carried its burdens bravely and, hopefully, adequately. I believe we have cause to be proud of what we had to bear in a human way in dealing with many victims of many mistakes and errors over the years.

During this period, of course, we also embarked on the peace process, Palestinian-Israeli and Arab-Israeli peace process, that is ongoing until this moment. Before we did so, we met in Amman at a great national gathering, discussed the options and decided to move ahead. We provided an umbrella for a joint delegation. In other words, a Palestinian-Jordanian delegation to go to Madrid and beyond. I can't see, nor I am sure anyone can see a solution to the Palestinian problem without the full participation of the Palestinian people and their contribution to the establishment of a just and comprehensive peace. We also decided to go to the multilateral talks and to see how further, with the rest of world, with the region, we could look at all the possibilities that peace may offer as an inducement to all concerned to move towards the establishment of that worthy and worthiest objectives.

I warned from the outset that it was going to take time and effort and patience. I believe that the last few years have brought a basic difference to the region in regard to peace, that being that the overwhelming majority of people on either side of the divide have a feeling for the first time that this may be, in fact this is the last opportunity, and that it is the duty of all to strive to try to attain it. So that once and for all, the root cause of instability in that region and beyond can be addressed. And so that at the level of the children of Abraham, peace can finally come to reign and unite them once again in that region of the world, and in the world as a whole.

We have moved, maybe slowly, but I believe we have covered a lot of ground so far. There are still many obstacles, and the most serious of them is one that addresses the need to recognize Palestinian rights on Palestinian soil.

I don't believe that any people have a claim to having suffered more than the Palestinian people. I believe that reason should prevail and good judgment by all, but in terms of human rights, in terms of a right of the people on their soil, Palestinians and their rights must be recognized.

The difficulty as I see it at the moment is that regarding the different states involved. They have a clear idea as to where

they are going in terms of the immediate concerns and occupied territories, and every other aspect that may be on the agenda of each country and Israel.

As far as the Palestinians are concerned, I salute the courage of those who came out of the territories because they exhibited great courage, both moral and physical. And coming forth to represent the people of Palestine in seeking the kind of solution that future generations can accept and live with and protect—not related to the balance of power, not related to the realities of today, but what is just and, therefore, what is lasting.

I refer to a problem. I believe it is in the need maybe to clarify for the Palestinian people more what the end result might look like out of all these very worthy efforts that are ongoing. If that were to happen, and I hope and pray it will, then I am sure that progress will be rapid on transitional arrangements and on all levels. Regardless of these facts and factors, I am most encouraged by the fact that the United States, the president, the administration, and, I believe, the American people support the efforts to end this tragedy once and for all.

We have heard that the United States will be a full partner in the process. We are all hoping that we will see this manifest itself clearly in the immediate future. We are at a very critical moment, and there are forces on either side of the divide that, for whatever reason, despite all the efforts that have been spent, may be seeking to scuttle the chances of arriving at peace and destroy them. What we need is to give courage to the overwhelming majority of people on either side of the divide, to persevere in their hopes and in their efforts in encouraging the process leading to a just, comprehensive settlement of the Israeli-Palestinian and the Israeli-Arab problem.

In Jordan, we are about to embark on our further steps towards democratization. We are preparing for general elections. On our return, we shall discuss with all the elements—as schools of political thinking that put together the National Charter—the possibility of modifying or improving the election law on the basis of the Constitution that stipulates that all Jordanians are equal in terms of their rights and responsibilities, and the area of discussion will probably center on one person, one vote, but maybe some other minor changes, and, of course, we are entering a new phase since also these last few years have seen the return of hundreds of thousands of Jordanians to their homeland and many of them will be partaking in these elections that are scheduled for a time twoards the end of this year.

Democracy, pluralism, respect for human rights, sharing in shaping the future, sharing in responsibility, and sharing in laying the foundations for what we believe will inevitably happen and gain strength within our region; sharing in trying to create a good example of Jordan to others the world over in the interest of continuity, of stability; in the interest of peace and security; in the interest of progress; and particularly out of a commitment we have to make every Jordanian feel his worth and enjoy his rights.

I would like to thank you once again for the opportunity of being with you. It's an honor and a privilege to be amongst so many dear friends, and so many of you have given me the pleasure over the many years that have passed of meeting with you and exchanging views and ideas. And I hold you in very high esteem, and I'm proud to be here with you, and thank you for your patience and I'll be more than happy to answer any of your questions, and let's start the (?dialogue). [applause]

[No question as heard]

[Husayn] News of this [?is] very, very important to us all. That holy city is in my belief equally important to all followers of the three great monothiestic religions. I have said over many years that without an adequate solution that satisfies all we would not be facing the challenge or possibly, in my way of thinking, the wish of the almighty, when He made it that important to all of us, to make it the essence of peace, the symbol of peace, between the children of Abraham. So Jerusalem is obviously very, very important. And there are many other important issues to follow, but this is not for us to discuss in detail here. This is for the process that is ongoing to address in the time ahead. And I hope that this process continues with sincerity and determination to bring us to our goal of a just, comprehensive peace.

[Speaker] How does Your Majesty cope with the impression, or does it exist in Jordan, that the West is not moving in Bosnia because the people who are suffering are Muslim?

[Husayn] I think there may be a feeling along these lines among some, but there is a feeling in our world, or in our part of the world, that if the challenge is too big maybe people are a little shy to face up to it, and this is frightening. What we need is a different situation that prevails in this world, where problems of an equal nature are dealt with equally wherever they are no matter what the cost is. Otherwise, if we speak of weapons of mass destruction, I believe there is a very serious danger that the club which may be limited at this point in time is not going to be so for very long, and the dangers will grow in different parts of the world, of tragedies occurring, and of the waste of time and energy and resources and maybe lives and maybe the future of all of us, unless we are able to somehow cope and restructure our lives in the new world of today as soon as possible. And in all this, the United States has a very, very leading role which we hope it will be able to fulfill in the times ahead.

[Speaker] You mentioned earlier that many Jordanians have returned [words indistinct] reference to the fact that Jordan [?in the period] of the Gulf war had to accept transient refugees in very large numbers. And I know your government (?bore) a considerable cost [word indistinct] and the very fact that hundreds of thousands have remained as residents in Jordan. Could you speak briefly about the economic [word indistinct] burden that [word indistinct] on Jordan that [words indistinct] in the U.S. and whether you think Jordan has received an appropriate level of support from the international community to help it carry this burden?

[Husayn] Thank you very much, indeed, sir. During the Gulf crisis, we had to cope to the best of our ability with

about a million people, who passed through Jordan to their respective countries of origin. We've had about 400,000 people return to Jordan, and I would like to be very clear about this. This did not start with the liberation of Kuwait. It started with the occupation of Kuwait, and went on through the period that followed. In some cases, there are people who have spent most of their lives there, helping to build and contributing to its progress and stability and advancement in every area and field. In some cases, we had three generations of people return who had been there in the late forties and their children and their children's children. No, sir. We did not receive as much help as we had thought the situation would have merited. But, we have tried our utmost to deal with the problem which suddenly manifested itself in a 10 percent increase in the population and their immediate needs for schooling, greater health care, and for everything else that would be done for them.

For the first time so, we have a number of our people below the poverty level. As regards to other problems, we have a national debt, we had a problem in 1989 which was further exacerbated by these events, but we have worked with the World Bank and International Monetary Fund to restructure. And the praise that we have received encourages us to think that may be in that respect as well, we are creating a good example of ourselves.

Many of the people who came back got to work and brought with them experience and a determination to prove their worth and to build in their own country.

We are moving forward, and we hope that we will continue. And it is rather a unique picture sir, because on the one hand you have Israel and its needs, and then you have Jordan and its needs. And Jordan has really been the country that has born most of the burdens and responsibilities in terms of every disaster that has befallen the region.

The resources were possibly limited except for the human dimension and the courage and determination of a people. And also we acknowledge the growing understanding of what Jordan is and what it is about in the world, and the support of friends.

We hope it will be possible to see what could be done about that reduction or forgiveness, it's puny in comparison with what has been invested into the region, but it would help very, very much indeed in all aspects of life.

One other element that probably needs to be addressed at this point: It is a dream, may be. But in reality I believe that in a better future in our region, we should look seriously at the demographic problems and the problems of people, and it should not be impossible for an Arab leaving Jordan to any part of the Arab world after many years of service to acquire a duel nationality, that of his country of origin, be it Palestine or Jordan, and that of the place in which he has spent his life and given of it very richly. He would be an element of stability then, and a contributor to progress. I think it is almost ridiculous to realize that this is not happening so far, and hasn't happened, and it might be easier for someone worthy of, and desirous of acquiring an American nationality to do so than it is within our region. Maybe this is an area, as well, within the context of all the changes that have to take place in the future for the better, that will be addressed.

[Speaker] If at all [word indistinct] on the presidential level?

[Husayn] We have welcomed the involvement of the United States as a full partner and at the highest levels and at all levels, and we hope that this will be possible. I know that the interest of all is to ensure that there is progress towards the objective which is securing a just, durable peace that can be protected by generations to come.

[Speaker] And the pace?

[Husayn] The pace has been slow, and I think that that is where we need at this moment to ensure that people feel, and I hope that in the future people will also be able to share in knowing what is happening at every coming stage. So, they're engaged, as well, on the largest possible level and dimension in monitoring what is happening and, hopefully, as a result they will gain heart and be encouraged as we proceed beyond this point.

[Speaker] [Words indistinct] position [words indistinct] what can we say to those people who argue like that in the West [words indistinct] to have [words indistinct] the West?

[Husayn] [Words indistinct] thesis that Islam and democracy are not compatible, I believe that nothing could be more wrong than that. Islam is shura. Islam is partaking in shaping the future. It is dialogue. It is democracy. I use the word democracy because it is easily understood here, but it is compatible with shura in Islam and in our part of the world. And, in Jordan, sir, we put together a National Charter, and we put emphasis on pluralism. This National Charter was the result of the work of Muslims and Christians alike. The Islamic movement was involved in it. Nothing can be further from the truth, which is that there is no real basic difference between us and the rest of the world. It is sad that some act, or some may think of—and I refer to this, maybe, residual from a past, from a notion that is there—but I am equally disturbed about acts by maybe a small minority in the name of Islam, that has nothing to do with Islam or the reaction as well and the possibility of creating a rift and a divide which should not be there. I am totally opposed to it, and so are our people. We should do everything we can to bring about better understanding of each other, and work together for a better world and for a better future.

[Speaker] Your Majesty, am I right in saying that implicit in your previous answer to one of the questions that we are nowhere near an Arab reconciliation?

[Husayn] I will do everything I can to achieve an Arab reconciliation. But, a real Arab reconciliation, and by looking to the future with hope, this will be the case. We have no quarrel with anyone, and we hope that this is the feeling of others. I am confident that there will come a time when many of the misconceptions will be removed because they are baseless.

[Question indistinct]

[Husayn] As far as the Jordanian track is concerned, I think that there has been some confusion over statements that have been given recently. The position, as I know it, is that some while ago, we managed to reach a satisfactory agenda for the talks and for the topics to be discussed. That wasn't ratified, although it could be at any moment, although discussions are ongoing, pending some real progress on the Palestinian-Israeli track. Once again, we are working for a comprehensive peace, the completion of all these elements, and hopefully, the transformation from where we are to where we hope to be.

Meets Arab Ambassadors

JN2406163293 Amman Radio Jordan in English 1100 GMT 24 Jun 93

[Text] In Washington, His Majesty King Husayn has received the heads of the Arab diplomatic missions accredited to the United States. After welcoming them, his majesty the king spoke about the necessity to work toward a new stage based on cooperation among their countries.

His majesty spoke about the importance to enhance the Arab ties to guarantee the ability to counter all the challenges. His majesty briefed them on his visit to the United State and the success it achieved, underlying the necessity for the Arab nation to clarify its image for other countries in the world.

His majesty stressed the Jordanian fundamentals in the Middle East peace process and underlined the importance of continuing the Arab coordination to guarantee a unified Arab stand to achieve a last, lasting, and comprehensive peace accepted by the future generations.

The meeting was attended by the prime minister, the chief of the Royal Court, his majesty's military secretary, Prince Talal Bin-Muhammad, the Jordanian ambassador to Washington, and the chief of the Royal Protocol.

Receives World Bank President

JN2406163093 Amman Radio Jordan in English 1100 GMT 24 Jun 93

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn received at his residence in Washington President of the World Bank Mr. Lewis Preston and his deputy for Europe and Middle East Affairs. During the meeting, his majesty the king asserted Jordan's determination to continue in its economic program aiming to achieve self-reliance in cooperation with the international community.

Mr. Preston expressed his admiration of the Jordanian economy's capability in confronting the challenges and difficulties. He added that Jordan's achievements are distinctive, and expressed the World Bank's readiness to cooperate with Jordan in all fields.

Talks With Christopher

JN2506051493 Amman Radio Jordan in English 0430 GMT 25 Jun 93

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn and U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher held a closed meeting to discuss bilateral relations and regional and international issues. Developments in the peace process were also discussed, along with means of making the peace process more successful in order to achieve a just and comprehensive peace that future generations will be able to accept and defend.

Later the secretary of state held a luncheon in honor of his majesty the king, attended by the Jordanian delegation, during which the peace process was discussed. Christopher commended the democratic path in Jordan and Jordan's supportive stand in the peace process.

Discusses Issues With Congressmen

JN2506121093 Amman Radio Jordan in English 1100 GMT 25 Jun 93

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn has met in Washington with U.S. Senators [as heard] Robert Michel and Robert Dole. The talks dealt with Jordanian-U.S. relations, the Middle East peace process, and a number of regional and international issues.

The U.S. senators expressed appreciation for his majesty's wisdom in leading his country and hailed his majesty's attitude toward humanitarian issues. They also valued Jordan's positive role in the bilateral and multilateral Middle East peace talks.

Later his majesty met with a number of senators and briefed them on the political, economic, and social developments in Jordan.

He stressed that democratic process in Jordan is based on human rights respect, political pluralism, and social justice.

His majesty stressed the necessity to reactivate the American role as a full partner in the Arab-Israeli talks to warrant achieving progress that guarantees a just, lasting, and comprehensive peace in the region.

Statements to U.S. Reporters Praised

JN2406131593 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 24 Jun 93 p 1

[Editorial: "King Husayn's Statements"]

[Text] From time to time, His Majesty King Husayn makes important statements to major world newspapers containing signals about the region and events which could shape its future. Of these statements are the ones his majesty recently made to an elite group of U.S. newspaper and magazine chief editors in Washington which express confidence in the future and at the same time highlight the Jordanian civil role in the region as a factor of stability and a model of democracy.

There is no doubt that the international attention which these statements received is an expression of King Husayn's prestige as one of the wisest men in the world and an

expression of confidence in the positive role which Jordan can play in the region. It is quite clear that all this provides a signal about the future which we hope will be built on the basis of just and comprehensive peace in the region.

We should reaffirm and recall that the U.S. full partner's role in the Arab-Israeli negotiations, called for by His Majesty King Husayn, is an essential requirement to expedite the achievement of desired peace. We should also recall that this role is a top responsibility shouldered by Washington, in its capacity as a cosponsor of the peace process.

Our united and cohesive family feels its responsibility to translate King Husayn's expressed vision into a performance based on democracy. Needless to say, our family will do its best to render this performance a model to be followed in the region.

On the other hand, there is still strong hope that Washington will play the role expected from it in a way that strengthens the conviction that U.S. officials now prefer the role of a full partner to all parties to the peace process over the role of an ally that is partial to Israel. It is important to clarify that the translation of this hope still needs a lot of work.

Call for Arab Reconciliation Viewed

JN2506092993 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 25 Jun 93 p 1

[Editorial: "Arab Reconciliation"]

[Text] In his Brookings Institute address to intellectuals, politicians, and journalists, King Husayn broached the subject of Arab reconciliation, reaffirming his determination to continue his efforts to reach this cherished goal.

Naturally, such a topic is bound to attract the attention of both his audience and the parties concerned in the region. This stand is commensurate with Jordan's pan-Arab responsibility, which the king has reiterated; namely, establishing Arab relations based on mutual respect and joint action to preserve the dignity of the Arabs and promote their role in a stable and safe future for the region. It is common knowledge that the king exerted certain efforts in this regard. Had these efforts been received with positive attitudes, the Arab situation would not be what it is today. The Arab brothers bear the pan-Arab responsibility of supporting the king's efforts in order to achieve Arab reconciliation. The necessary support means envisioning an Arab future that would let bygones be bygones and proceeding toward a new Arab era in which democracy, pluralism, and man's liberty would play a real role in creating and directing the course of events.

His Majesty King Husayn has always been able to exploit all occasions to defend the Arab nation's rights and endeavor to build the bright future it deserves. These efforts will no doubt remain a beacon for all those who favor the establishment of peace, stability, and better life in the region.

'Successful' Visit Lauded

JN2506114293 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 25 Jun 93 pp 1, 15

[Editorial: "Husayn's Efforts and the Possibile Return of Optimism to Negotiations"]

[Text] It seems that a climate of optimism is now returning to dominate the Arab-Israeli talks in their 10th round. It also seems there are serious attempts to end the dilemma facing the negotiations.

The U.S. Administration may, under direct instructions from President Clinton, be determined now to activate the peace process. Especially since President Clinton had promised His Majesty King Husayn during their successful meeting that his country will enter, as a full and effective partner, into the negotiations and that his country will use its influence to ensure the success of the peace process. His Majesty King Husayn was, therefore, right when he said he is optimistic about the possibility of achieving substantive progress in the negotiations.

His Majesty King Husayn's meetings with President Clinton, Secretary of State Christopher, and senior administration officials, as well as his lecture at the Brookings Institute, have revealed a serious desire by the U.S. Administration to end the deadlock in the negotiations and provide the conditions necessary for its success.

Clearly, King Husayn's statements were received with understanding by President Clinton, his administration's officials, and the U.S. public, especially after his majesty explained during his current successful visit to the United States the volatile conditions in the region. These conditions require joint action to end tension and establish security and stability in the region; an objective that cannot be achieved without a just and comprehensive peace in the region that future generations can accept.

His Majesty King Husayn explained his views of the current conditions in the region, as well as the shape of its future in the case of peace and in the case of continued tension and conflicts. The achievement of peace is, of course, more difficult than the eruption of regional conflicts and wars.

Therefore, President Clinton and his senior administration officials, as well as U.S. political experts, listened carefully to King Husayn's warnings about the threats that may result from the failure of the peace process.

In his various meetings, King Husayn spoke about the democratic experience in Jordan as an example to be followed in the region. He also spoke about human rights

and the ties of mutual respect that must dominate the peoples of the region. He further spoke about the need for development and the establishment of successful development projects that may compensate the people of the region for the opportunities squandered by destructive wars and conflicts.

Clearly, King Husayn's views received the interest they deserve from the U.S. Administration and other parties. This has revived King Husayn's optimism about the possibility that the U.S. Administration will view the region and its circumstances through a perspective different from the previous, and traditionally hostile one.

Therefore, His Majesty King Husayn was right when he said Jordanian-U.S. ties have entered a new phase, which his majesty described as the spring of relations.

The cordial and warm welcome accorded to his majesty by President Clinton and his administration officials clearly indicates this spring of relations, especially since the U.S. Administration knows the extent of Jordan's prominent and influential role in the region and on the international scene. Jordan has become, in practice, the center for the call for freedom, democracy, and human rights in the region.

Iraq's Tariq 'Aziz Stops Over on Return From Geneva

JN2406104293 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 24 Jun 93 p 1

[Text] Amman—Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister Tariq 'Aziz arrived in Amman from Geneva last night. He was welcomed on arrival at Queen Alia International Airport by Dr. Jawad al-'Anani, minister of state for cabinet affairs. 'Aziz had met with UN Secretary General Butrus-Ghali in Geneva and discussed with him the possible resumption of Iraqi oil exports.

Crown Prince Receives 'Aziz

JN2406160993 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 24 Jun 93

[Text] At the Royal Hashemite Court this morning, His Highness Crown Prince Hasan, the regent, received Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister Tariq 'Aziz, who is stopping in Amman en route to Baghdad. Mr. 'Aziz briefed his highness on the talks he had with UN Secretary General Butrus-Ghali in Geneva and outlined to him present conditions in Iraq.

The meeting was attended by Dr. Jawad al-'Anani, minister of state for cabinet affairs, and the Iraqi ambassador in Amman.

Al-Asad Receives Phone Call From Lebanon's al-Hirawi

JN2506052693 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0415 GMT 25 Jun 93

[Text] Damascus—President Hafiz al-Asad last night received a telephone call from Lebanese President Ilyas al-Hirawi. The two presidents discussed issues of mutual concern.

Greek Deputy Foreign Minister Pays Official Visit

Meets State Minister, Counterpart

NC2306214193 Athens ET-1 Television Network in Greek 1720 GMT 23 Jun 93

[Text] Deputy Foreign Minister Viryinia Tsoudherou has begun an official visit to Syria and Lebanon. Our Damascus special correspondent Nikolaos Meletis has the following report:

[Begin Meletis recording] The Middle East, the Cyprus issue, and bilateral relations will be covered in Tsoudherou's talks in Damascus with Syrian Government officials. At today's meetings with Syrian State Minister Nasir Qaddur and Tsoudherou's counterpart Yusuf Shakkur, which were held in a particularly friendly atmosphere, Tsoudherou thanked the Syrian Government for its stance on Cyprus and pointed out Greece's firm support for the UN resolutions on the Middle East issue. [end recording]

Delivers Message for al-Asad

JN2406153993 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1115 GMT 24 Jun 93

[Text] Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam received at 1000 today Greek Deputy Foreign Minister Viryinia Tsoudherou and her accompanying delegation. The meeting was attended by the Greek ambassador in Damascus.

Mrs. Tsoudherou handed the vice president a message from Greek President Konstandinos Karamanlis to President Hafiz al-Asad.

Discussions during the meeting dealt with the current international situation and the Middle East. Discussions also dealt with relations between Syria and the EC states, as well as bilateral relations.

Departs 24 Jun

JN2406170693 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1620 GMT 24 Jun 93

[Text] Damascus, 24 Jun (SANA)—Greek Deputy Foreign Minister Viryinia Tsoudherou left Damascus this evening following a three-day visit to the Syrian Arab Republic.

She was seen off by Assistant Foreign Minister Yusuf Shakkur, senior Foreign Ministry officials, the Greek ambassador in Damascus, and the embassy staff.

Opposition Front Criticizes Kuwaiti Death Sentences

JN2206155993 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1400 GMT 22 Jun 93

[Text] The Political Bureau of the National Front for the Salvation of Syria has appealed to Arab parties, trade and professional unions, and cultural institutions to put pressure on the rulers of Kuwait to reverse the death sentences passed on 10 Palestinians and Jordanians from the strugglers of the Arab Liberation Front.

A statement issued by the National Front for the Salvation of Syria said the Kuwaiti rulers passed a death sentence against 10 of the heroes of the Palestinian revolution, thus fulfilling the wishes of the Zionist enemy, which has been committing massacres against our people in Palestine from the time of the British occupation and continuing through the current revolution of the stones by the Palestinian Arab people.

The statement added that the Kuwaiti rulers are not ashamed before God and the children of the stones, who are being killed daily. It said the death sentences are tantamount to a declaration of war on the people of Palestine, at a time when those rulers have announced lifting the ban on foreign companies dealing with the Zionist enemy.

India

Jayalalitha Claims All Militants Evicted

BK2406105493 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 24 Jun 93

[Text] The Tamil Nadu chief minister, Ms. Jayalalitha, has claimed that all Sri Lankan militant groups including the LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] have been driven out of the state. Inaugurating the conference of district collectors and police chiefs in Madras this morning, she called upon the law enforcing agencies to continue their surveillance over coastal areas and keep a tight vigil over the Sri Lankan special camps to ensure that there is no direct or indirect revival of any form of militant activity in the state. The AIADMK [All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam] government headed by Ms. Jayalalitha completes two years in office today.

Sino-Indian Working Group on Border To Meet 25 Jun

BK2506031493 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 25 Jun 93

[Text] The Sino-Indian Joint Working Group on the boundary issue is meeting in New Delhi today. It will consider among other things more confidence building measures. The Indian delegation to the two-day talks will be led by the foreign secretary, Mr. J.N. Dixit, while the visiting side will be led by the vice foreign minister, Mr. Tang Jiaxuan. China is likely to convey its response to the Indian proposal on the opening of two more points for border trade during the talks. The Joint Working Group was set up five years ago to work toward a settlement of the border question.

Iran

President Receives Kohl Message From German Envoy

LD2406130593 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 24 Jun 93

[Text] This morning Mr. Dieter Kastrup, the special envoy of the German chancellor, was received by Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani, our country's president, to deliver a written message from Mr. Helmut Kohl.

According to a Central News Unit report, at the meeting Mr. Dieter Kastrup, the German state secretary in the Foreign Ministry said: As the special envoy of the German chancellor I have been assigned to deliver his written message about removing possible obstacles in the way of the expansion of mutual ties, and finding ways of further deepening political, economic, and cultural cooperation between the two countries.

Submitting a report on this talks with our country's political and economic officials he said: By the two countries exchanging high-ranking economic delegations a joint Iranian-German economic committee will be set up soon. We hope that, within the framework of that committee, the expansion of economic and commercial cooperation between the two countries gains more momentum.

Expressing his country's concern about the situation in Bosnia- Herzegovina and referring to this week's European summit in Copenhagan he said: At the conference the German chancellor persistently called for the realization of the rights of the people of Bosnia-Herzegovina and clearly expressed his agreement with the lifting of the arms embargo on that country.

Mr. Kastrup added: Germany would not accept any solution contrary to the rights of the people of Bosnia-Herzegovina. In that respect our feelings are the same as those of Iran. Finally he called for the continuation of talks between top political and economic officials of Iran and Germany to further deepen cooperation and ties.

At the meeting, expressing his gratitude for the friendly message from Mr. Helmut Kohl, Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani said: As a free and independent country the Islamic Republic of Iran is serious about cooperation with European countries, particularly Germany, based on mutual respect and cooperation. The president said that the lack of economic and commercial exchanges between countries was the main obstacle in the way of the continuation of economic cooperation. He said: We hope that by adopting correct and fair methods the commercial and economic relations between Iran and Germany will improve in the future. Referring to the various enemy propaganda ploys against the Islamic Republic of Iran, Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani said: Political and economic ties between countries should not be influenced by such suggestions.

Finally, welcoming the expansion of political and economic cooperation between Iran and Germany, the president stressed the importance of implementing the technical and commercial commitments between the two countries.

Commentary Views Situation in Azerbaijan

LD2406210893 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in English 1930 GMT 24 Jun 93

[Station commentary: "Ambiguous Feature of Azerbaijan"]

[Text] According to our reporter in Baku, the extraordinary session of Azerbaijan's assembly ended inconclusively after eight hours of exhaustive discussions. In the meeting, lengthy talks were held on examining the competence of Azerbaijan's fugitive president, Abulfaz Elchibey. However, apparently on the insistence of parliamentary Speaker Geydar Aliyev, adequate time was allowed to the president to return to Baku in case of his willingness. In the opinion of political analysts, even though current conditions do not permit Elchibey to return to Baku, Mr. Aliyev continues to insist, for the sake of showing his commitment, to observe the law by precisely enforcing the required legal procedure for the peaceful transfer of power from Elchibey to himself.

Since the rebel forces of Colonel Surat Guseynov have arrived at the gates of Baku and chaotic economic situation

in Azerbaijan is getting worse, there is seen to be need for an urgent decision concerning the future leadership of the country.

At present America, Britain, and Turkey, stressing that Mr. Elchibey is the lawful president of Azerbaijan, seek his return to power. But elements in the Popular Front do not enjoy popular support due to their weak performance over the past one year since assumption of power in June 1992. For this reasion they lack the necessary ability to form a united popular front for confronting the rebel forces of Surat Guseynov.

Duly observing this situation, Mr. Elchibey left Baku for his native village in the vicinity of the city of Ordubad late Friday night. He is aware that for returning to Baku, the support from foreign countries—such as America and Turkey—alone will not be enough and the entire political forces within the country too should coordinate with him.

In the opinion of political observers, any politician who at the present difficult juncture assumes the office of the leader of the country in a bid to overcome the grave problems will in fact be committing political suicide if he does not have sufficient experience and is not backed by the people.

Among the current political figures Geydar Aliyev is reckoned the only individual who can play an active role for forging national unity in the current transitional period. But apparently Mr. Aliyev, while constantly stressing the enforcement of law, is seeking to secure full powers in order to control this situation in the country. This is because he knows that under the present circumstances he will endanger his political credibility by accepting the presidential functions.

By considering the reality that the forces of Suret Guseynov are in the suburbs of Baku, Mr. Aliyev knows that he must in any case share power with Colonel Guseynov. But it is not known as to what extent Guseynov would be willing to cooperate with Aliyev. Certain political analysts believe that due to the closeness of both Aliyev and Guseynov to Moscow, there would be no problem in creating understanding between them.

In conclusion, one can point to the reality that the current crisis in Azerbaijan, prior to being related to the uprising of Colonel Guseynov's forces in the city of Gyandzha, is the outcome of poor administration and adverse performance of the Popular Front leaders during their one-year rule. Indisputably, while the intervention of foreign forces, including that of the Russians, cannot be ignored in the creation of such crisis, one should first of all consider the general inclination of the people of Azerbaijan for the establishment of stability and security in the country following the removal of the Popular Front from power.

Uzbek Delegation Visits for Cooperation Talks

LD2306173693 Tehran IRNA in English 1702 GMT 23 Jun 93

[Text] Mashhad (Khorasan), June 23, IRNA—Deputy prime minister of the Republic of Uzbekistan, Kazim Tulyaganov, arrived in this holy city here Wednesday [23 June] heading a delegation at the invitation of Iran's Minister of Roads and Transportation Mohammad Sa'idi-Kia.

The Uzbek delegation that is to proceed to Tehran later on is expected to discuss outlooks for Iran-Uzbek cooperation in various areas of industries and economy as well as transportation between the two countries.

Iran's north-eastern Khorasan Province has shares a 750 km long border with the Republic of Turkmenistan that can be the gateway to Central Asia for Iran.

Governor general of Khorasan, Mofidi, who greeted the Uzbek delegation observed that since the independence of the Central Asian Republics three border customs offices between Iran and Turkmenistan have been doing a brisk business. Uzbekistan lies to the north of Turkmenistan.

He requested that the Uzbek Government commission more delegates to Mashhad in a bid to promote trade exchanges between the two countries.

In response Tulyaganov lauded Iran's efforts for building new roads between Khorasan and Central Asia. He said surface transport facilites in Iran makes the Persian Gulf accessible to his country.

Later today the Uzbek official inspected a 39-kilometer road that is being built to link the border post of Bajgiran with Quchan city by way of Emam Qoli in the province. Throughout its length the road will have to be cut into moutains in trench-like formation that will involve substantial digging.

The project that started in the spring of 1992 is financed by the office of the Iranian president. If budget allocations for the project are made on time the road will have been built by the end of the next winter.

The Uzbek delegation also visited the railway that connects Mashhad to Sarakhs on the Iran-Turkmenistan border, as well as an airfield in Tabas, in the southern part of Khorasan Province, and a road that is to link the towns Torbat-e Haydariyeh and Gonabad.

Oil Minister Calls On Kuwait 'To Cut Overproduction'

LD2406175693 Tehran IRNA in English 1650 GMT 24 Jun 93

[Text] Noshahr (Mazandaran), June 24, IRNA—Oil Minister Gholam Reza Aqazadeh-Kho'i here today called on Kuwait to cut overproduction and adhere to its quota set by the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC). He said Kuwait's refusal to sign the agreement reached at the recent OPEC meeting, caused other oil producers to lose 2 dollars per barrel. If Kuwait stops overproduction it would benefit all OPEC countries since there are only two months to the next OPEC session, he added.

On domestic issues, Aqazadeh said the Oil Ministry has given special priorities to fuel consumers, and to meet

shortages it would either import refined oil or increase the output of Abadan oil refinery.

Investment in petrochemicals by the private sector was among other priorities of the ministry, which plans to raise production from the the current 6 million [metric] tons annually to 12 million tons in 1996.

Oil Minister Opens Piped Gas System in Bandar Anzali

LD2306193293 Tehran IRNA in English 1748 GMT 23 Jun 93

[Text] Bandar-e Anzali (Gilan), June 23, IRNA—Oil Minister Gholam-Reza Aqazadeh said here today that since the launching of the first 5-year plan 160 towns and cities have been provided piped gas facilities. He expressed hope that by the end of the plan gas facilities would extend to 200 towns and cities.

The oil minister officiated a ceremony here that inaugurated tapped gas facilities in this Caspian city, the second largest in the province after the city of Rasht that is its seat.

He also assured the people of the province that before the next winter another six towns in the province will have tapped gas.

The gas project has cost about rials 22 million and offers tapped gas to 12,000 households in the city. Agriculture Minister 'Isa Kalantari, Majles Speaker 'Ali Akbar Nateq-Nuri, and a group of other government officials were present at the ceremony.

Nateq-Nuri Visits Gilan Province, Border Area

LD2306125793 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 23 Jun 93

[Report by unidentified correspondent in Rasht on visit to Gilan Province by Majles Speaker 'Ali Akbar Nateq-Nuri]

[Excerpts] On the third day of his visit to Gilan Province Majles Speaker Nateq-Nuri, accompanied by Commerce Minister [Mohammad Reza] Ne'matzadeh, and other officials, inspected various units of the Iran-Chuka timber and paper plant in Asalem district. [passage omitted]

In Astara, accompanied by the director general of the Customs Department of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Mr. Nateq-Nuri inspected the bridge and border strip of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the newly independent Azerbaijan Republic, the customs buildings, Caspian Sea coastline, and the seafront street in that town which is being threatened by rising water levels. [passage omitted]

Concerning the construction of railway line from Astara to the Azerbaijan Republic, Nateq-Nuri said: After completing the preliminary studies this project will be implemented as part of the government's second five-year plan.

At the end of his meeting with the people of Astara, at midday today Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Nateq-Nuri arrived in Talesh and was welcomed by the people of Talesh who had been awaiting his arrival for hours. After arriving in Talesh Mr. Nateq-Nuri met Shiite and Sunni sisters and brothers in the main mosque of Talesh. In this meeting the Majles speaker described the unity of expression and the solidarity of the Muslim Iranian nation as the main basis of the success of the Islamic Republic of Iran against the conspiracies of the enemies of Islam. He added: The effective and constructive presence of the valiant people of Islamic Iran at various stages of the Islamic revolution has disrupted all the equations of world arrogance and has neutralized all their evil plots. He described the massive participation of the people in the ceremonies marking the fourth anniversary of the passing of His Eminence Imam Khomeyni, may he be admitted to God's paradise, and in the sixth round of presidential elections as a manifestation of the belief and attachment of the people to this system.

Nateq-Nuri Addresses Judiciary Gathering

LD2406103193 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 24 Jun 93

[Text] Speaking on the last day of the fourth gathering of the officials of the judicial power from all over the country, Majles Speaker Mr. Nateq-Nuri said this morning that the Majles is ready to enact all the laws needed by the judicial power.

He said: The country's judicial laws must be refined. Society's needs must be catered for by those laws. Explaining factors which are effective in strengthening judicial power he said that one of the important instruments at the hand of the judiciary is due consideration of conditions of the time. He added: Judges must be abreast of political and social issues if they are to give verdicts in line with existing conditions.

Mr. Nateq-Nuri then said that the work of the country's judges must be systematically assessed and supervised. He said that within the framework of legal and judicial criteria all the offenders, whether clerics or non-clerics, must be treated equally. He went on to say that decisive confrontation with wrongdoers will strengthen the pillars of the judicial power.

At the same gathering head of the judiciary, Mr. Yazdi, called on the judges to maintain respect of the law, to think in universal terms, to attach importance to speed in work, and to be indifferent to any adverse atmosphere.

He added: We must analyze issues on the basis of Islamic sources which we have at hand. We must know at what stage of thinking the world is today. We can then make decisions with due regard to those points.

At the end of the fourth gathering of the officials of the judicial power from all over the country, the participant ended their deliberation by issuing a resolution.

Humanitarian Official Visits Refugee Camp for Iraqis

LD2306195693 Tehran IRNA in English 1826 GMT 23 Jun 93

[Text] Khuzestan Ahvaz (Khuzestan), June 23, IRNA—The League of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (LORCS) representative, Mr. Holteh, today visited the Iranian Red Crescent Society's relief camp at Khorramshahr which lodges 550 Iraqi Arab refugees.

The camp was set up as a joint venture by the Islamic Republic's Red Crescent Society and the German Red Cross on a 5,000 square meters plot of land and includes 500 makeshift houses provided for the refugees.

Holteh, who is visiting this southwestern border province to probe the needs of refugees in order to attract international assistance for their case, closely observed the social, sanitary and other living conditions of the Iraqi refugees in the camps at Dezful, Shushtar and Andimeshk.

He thanked the Islamic Republic for providing facilities for the well-being of the refugees who crossed into Iran in the aftermath of the Persian Gulf war to escape the fury of the Ba'thist forces against the majority Shiite Arab population.

Pakistan

President Summons Joint Parliament Session for 29 Jun

BK2406144693 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 24 Jun 93

[Text] In exercise of the power conferred by Clause 1 of Article 54 of the Constitution, the president has summoned the Majlis-i-Shoora, parliament, to meet in joint sitting in the Parliament House, Islamabad, at 1000 on Tuesday, the 29th June 1993.

The prime minister, Mr. Mohammad Nawaz Sharif, has said political situation in the country as well as center-province relations will improve with the passage of time. Talking to newsmen in the Parliament House today, the prime minister said that political situation needs to be improved further.

To a question about convening of the joint session of the parliament, the prime minister said the parliament is a sovereign body and holding of its session is a part of political process. He said overall political situation will be discussed in the parliament session.

Speculation About Emergency Growing

BK2506102493 Hong Kong AFP in English 0940 GMT 25 Jun 93

[Text] Islamabad, June 25 (AFP)—A joint sitting of the Pakistani parliament has been summoned here for Tuesday [29 June] amid a row between President Ghulam Ishaq Khan and Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif and fears of a declaration of emergency.

Official sources here said Friday that the president had conceded Sharif's request for calling the special session of both houses, but gave no agenda.

However, sources in the prime minister's camp said the meeting was to pre-empt any presidential move to clamp a state of emergency on the country which has remained plunged in bitter political crisis for the past months.

Sharif's federal government, reinstated on a court order 38 days after its dismissal by the 78-year-old president on April 18, has lost control over the four provinces.

The crisis had first erupted earlier this year when Sharif tried to clip the president's discretionary powers, which enable him to hire and fire the government.

Observers said that for Sharif the situation was worst in the largest and the richest province of Punjab, where a rival government had dissolved the provincial assembly. That dissolution came only four days after the May 26 Supreme Court ruling quashing the president's dissolution of the National Assembly.

The crisis was aggravated in Punjab, his home province, when the speaker refused to comply with a recent interim order passed by the Lahore High Court on restoring the Punjab Assembly.

The house, in which Sharif claims to command a majority, failed to meet, causing a delay in presenting the provincial budget. The constitution demands that the provinces must announce their fiscal programmes ahead of the new financial year, which in Pakistan starts on July 1.

A court hearing is continuing into a petition by Sharif's ally Parvez Elahi, challenging the Punjab governor Chaudhry Altaf Hussain's order to dissolve the assembly when the chief minister Manzoor Watto was threatened by a no confidence motion.

But, as both Hussain and Watto belong to the president's camp, there are fears that the government might urge the president to impose emergency rule so that he could run the government affairs.

Some sources indicated Friday that Sharif's federal government might use the opportunity to seek parliamentary approval to directly rule the provinces.

It could also introduce a bill to strip the president of his discretionary powers, the sources said.

But observers said the success of any such move would depend on cooperation from main opposition leader Benazir Bhutto as Sharif lacks the two-thirds majority he needs in the National Assembly needed to amend the constitution.

Sharif's ministers have ruled out the possibility of impeachment of the president at the forthcoming session of the parliament.

The premier himself refused to give a direct reply to the impeachment question beyond saying that the parliament was a "sovereign body." It would reframe rules for the two houses besides discussing the political situation, he said.

Several MPs have said they would oppose impeachment of the president, and National Assembly speaker Gohar Ayub commented: "It is a messy thing. I don't think the government will do that.

Bhutto Against 'Piecemeal Changes' in Constitution

BK2406121993 Karachi DAWN in English 24 Jun 93 p 1

[Text] Islamabad, June 23—Opposition leader Benazir Bhutto said on Wednesday the country could not sustain the present political stalemate and Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif should break it through meaningful political reforms.

Talking to DAWN from her Bilawal House residence, Ms Bhutto said, "heavy responsibility rests on the shoulders of the Prime Minister as he must realise that if he did not build strong democratic system he [words indistinct] "

She said the opposition was prepared to discuss with the Government the "full package of constitutional reforms, election reforms and just bits and pieces."

"We would not be bulldozed into accepting piecemeal changes in the constitution which strengthen the Prime Minister out of proportion," the PDA [People's Democratic Alliance] chief said.

Ms Bhutto feared that Mr Nawaz Sharif wanted to create a "puppet opposition" in a system based on two pillars—corruption and repression.

The Opposition would not be a party to such moves but the gravity of the situation has to be realised by the Prime Minister as the country is passing through a long period of statemate which cannot be sustained.

Asked about the committee set up by the Speaker of the National Assembly to propose constitutional amendments, Benazir Bhutto said: "PDA has nominated its three-member committee to raise all those issues and to prevent the government from bulldozing everybody."

She described the Iftikhar Gilani resolution in the National Assembly "as a storm in a tea cup," and said: "We know that the Government would resort to horse-trading and in this battle some of our troops may get injured."

She feared that the Government would try to win over more MNAs [members of National Assembly], MPAs [members of Provincial Assembly] and even members of the Central executive committee of the PPP [Pakistan People's Party]. "But they wil be disappointed and no one will go to them."

"These are not the proper ways. The country should be given in-built mechanisms to let democracy function, whoever comes to power." Benazir Bhutto said.

Ms Bhutto will reach Islamabad on Friday afternoon.

PPP Women Hold Karachi Protest; Over 100 Arrested

BK2406162893 Hong Kong AFP in English 1004 GMT 24 Jun 93

[Text] Karachi, June 24 (AFP)—More than 100 women activists from the main opposition group, the Pakistan People's Party (PPP), were arrested here Thursday [24 June] while protesting against the government, party sources said.

At least 43 women were arrested in a two-hour stand-off with police near the provincial assembly, and about 60 others were taken into custody as they tried to lead processions from other PPP strongholds across the city, the sources said.

The women were attempting to march to the Provincial Assembly where the new budget for fiscal 1993-94 is being debated and will be announced later this week. Witnesses said the women were protesting against a price hike and water shortages.

The authorities have banned gatherings of more than four people from around the assembly building and police cordoned off the area with barbed wire and parked trucks to prevent demonstrators from reaching the building.

Iqbal Yousuf, chief of the Karachi chapter of the PPP, accused police of "high handedness and mistreatment" of women activists in the slums of Lyari, the constituency of PPP leader Benazir Bhutto's husband Asif Ali Zardari.

A senior police officer denied the allegations, saying that no one had been mistreated. "We acted only to prevent violation of the ban," he said.

Balochistan Governor Rebuts Minister on Kansi Raid

BK2406122593 Islamabad THE NATION in English 24 Jun 93 p 12

[Text] Quetta—Chief Minister, Balochistan Nawaz Zulfiqar Ali Magsi, has contradicted the statement of Federal Interior Minister Chaudhry Shujaat Hussain, claiming that Balochistan government was taken into confidence before raiding the houses of Kansi [words indistinct] the arrest of a suspect Aimal Kansi on June 15 and said that his government was completely kept in dark in this connection.

He was talking to newsmen here on Wednesday at his chamber after the Assembly session. The Chief Minster claimed that Chaudhry Shujaat Hussain himself was not even aware about the raids on the houses of tribal elders in Quetta for arresting the suspect in the case of two CIA men murdered in Virginia State (USA) by the Frontier Corps. He said that it was wrong that the Balochistan Government was informed of door-to-door search rather it was side tracked [sentence as published]. He said that his government was asked to depute three magistrates for combing different localities to locate an accused Chakar Chakrani, who was allegedly involved in gunning down three Militiamen including a major [name indistinct] Kashmore

Region. But later it proved wrong as Militia men conducted house-to-house search for arresting Aimal Kansi, he added.

To a question, the chief minister said that he had already dispatched semi-official letters to Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif and Interior Minister Chaudhry Shujaat, protesting against the attitutde of the Federal Agency. To another question, Nawab Zulfiqar Magsi said that his government would have obviously assisted the federal government in arresting Aimal Kansi, if they were asked.

'Massive' Indian Troop Buildup on Border of Concern

BK2406122193 Islamabad THE PAKISTAN TIMES in English 24 Jun 93 p 1

[Text] Islamabad, June 23—The massive Indian troops build- up along the line of control [LOC] in Jammu and Kashmir and other areas on the international Pak-India border is a matter of serious concern for Pakistan, a Foreign Office Spokesman said here today.

Though Pakistan was disturbed at this build-up, it was trying to dufuse the tension resulting from this situation, he said while answering questions at his weekly Press briefing.

Asked to comment on recent Press report that there had in recent days been sporadic clashes between Indian and Pakistani troops along the LOC, the spokesman said "we are verifying the authenticity of these reports", but noted that sporadic fighting along the LOC was "almost a regular feature" between the [words indistinct].

Envoy to Paris Reaffirms Stand on Nuclear Issue

BK2506030493 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 25 Jun 93

[Text] Pakistan is determined to work not only for the cause of nuclear nonproliferation, but also for conventional arms reduction in South Asia. Syedullah Khan Dehlvi, Pakistani ambassador to France, addressed a group of French intellectuals in Paris and said Pakistan neither possesses nor has the intention to acquire nuclear arms. Its nuclear energy programs is entirely peaceful. He highlighted a number of proposals made by Pakistan to declare South Asia a nuclear weapons free zone. He said in spite of certain reservations, Pakistan will be willing to sign NPT [nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty] simultaneously with India. The ambassador highlighted the Pakistan prime minister's proposal for a five-nation conference, which has been supported by all countries concerned except India. He said a regional approach to nonproliferation is gradually gaining ground in international circles.

DPRK Envoy Supports Stand on Nuclear Issue

BK2506061893 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0600 GMT 25 Jun 93

[Text] The DPRK ambassador in Pakistan has said that his country fully supports Pakistan's stand to make South Asia a nonnuclear zone. Talking to newsmen in Islamabad, he said Pakistan and the DPRK share identical views on the nuclear issue because both countries want to make their respective regions free from nuclear weapons.

Sri Lanka

Wickremesinghe on Economic Progress, Tamils

PM2406142093 Paris LE MONDE in French 22 Jun 93 p 4

[Report on interview with Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe by Jean-Pierre Clerc; place and date not givend]

[Text] The Western backers of the Paris Club examined the Sri Lankan situation 18-19 June for the purpose of deciding an annual aid figure. This meeting marked the first foreign trip by the new prime minister, Ranil Wickremesinghe. This is the first time since Ranasinghe Premadasa, assassinated 1 May, was elected to the presidency at the end of 1988 that a top official from this South Asian island has given a major interview.

"In 1992 the Paris Group granted us $800 million in aid. For 1993-94 we are counting on a comparable amount, but given the large number of countries now asking for assistance we are aware that above all we must increase our investments and exports," Mr. Wickremesinghe observed. "We are working on that. Last year our GDP rose 5.5 percent—an increase due largely to our industrial growth, notably in clothing, which constitutes our leading export commodity."

The 44-year-old Sri Lankan Prime Minister, a former speaker of parliament, entered office only on 7 May. His predecessor as head of government, D.B. Wijetunge, was appointed head of state by parliament after the assassination of Ranasinghe Premadasa 1 May. The investigation, in which Scotland Yard detectives are taking part, Mr. Wickremesinghe told us, is tending toward the view that Weerakunar, the "human bomb" of 1 May, had connections with the LTTE (Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam) separatists who had infiltrated the presidential palace. The prime minister also gave an assurance that the police have now ruled out the theory that the 23 April assassination of L. Athulathmudali, leader of the Democratic United National Front opposition party and a rebel from the governing United National Party, could have been "financed at the top state level, as the foreign media have claimed."

Be that as it may, Mr. Wijetunge has in the space of five weeks made decisions aimed at easing an atmosphere marred by violent civil unrest. Those measures have already changed the form of a presidency characterized under Mr. Premadasa by a tortuous form of one-man rule: The ministers have regained their powers, a secret police unit has been disbanded, and so forth. Mr. Wickremesinghe believes, however, that it is all a "matter of style rather than substance. Admittedly, Mr. Wijetunga is more a man who governs by committee. But in the context of our regime, which is as presidential as France's, Premadasa's policy will continue." The conservative-inspired reforms in particular remain on the agenda—an agenda which in Sri Lanka is not without social concerns and occasionally a certain populism.

Faced with LTTE secessionism, the concern for national unity remains paramount—combined, the prime minister pointed out, with "the implementation of measures for the integration" of that minority: The recruitment of government officials in proportion to the ethnic composition of the population, the naturalization of residents of Indian origin, and the reversal of the chauvinistic language policy which has been in force since 1956 (Footnote 1) (The Sinhalese form 73 percent of the 18 million Sri Lankans, the Tamils 18 percent, and the Moors 7 percent. In 1956 Sinhalese was declared the sole official language: Recently Tamil was given the same status. In 1988, meanwhile, the government in Colombo gave Sri Lankan nationality to 500,000 Tamils of Indian origin who had been resident on the island a long time). "You should also note that the violent death of R. Premadasa did not trigger communal strife, as was generally predicted," Mr. Wickremesinghe told us. Meanwhile, the parliamentary commission, formed from the majority and the opposition, which is working on the development of a new legal framework for the "northern question" (the Tamil problem) is thought to be about to propose in the days ahead an initiative on the crucial question: a referendum on merging the eastern province with the northern province as a specifically Tamil-controlled area.

Nevertheless, a fierce military offensive is in progress against the LTTE in the Jaffna peninsula in the north of the island and antiguerrilla operations are taking place in the east. In the past both these bloody operations have been fiercely condemned by human rights organizations. "Fundamental rights are protected under Sri Lankan law: But we have been victims of several terrorist uprisings in recent years: by the JVP (Footnote 2) (The People's Liberation Front [JVP] is an organization of young nationalists responsible for two major uprisings in 1971 and 1989, both harshly suppressed) and by the Tamils. At present only the LTTE is active: We have managed to win over and rehabilitate the other militants. But our public life cannot be understood without a knowledge of these facts," the prime minister said in justification.

Nonetheless, the provincial elections held on 17 May despite the uproar created by the assassinations saw an opposition upsurge. In particular, the Sri Lankan Freedom Party (the populist progressive party of the former prime minister Mrs. Bandaranaike) won one of the seven constituencies, the West, which includes Colombo. In conclusion, however, the prime minister declared himself happy with the results of the United National Party, which remains "the leading party at national level, a remarkable fact after 16 years in power."

Government Envoy Says LTTE 'Keen on Peace'

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[Text] The Sri Lankan Government's emissary to secure the release of the 39 prisoners in Jaffna believes that the LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] has a genuine desire for peace this time. The emissary, commissioner general of rehabilitation Brigadier Ananda Weerasekhera, said that the LTTE spokesman, Anton Balasingham, told him during his weekend talks for the release of the 38 policemen and one soldier that the LTTE hopes the release of the prisoners would be a prelude to a further peace process. Brigadier Weerasekhera said the LTTE seemed to be very keen on peace. He said his mission was to secure the release of the prisoners. He had conveyed the LTTE's message to the government.

Brig. Weerasekhera said the shipment of the seven items have already been sent to Jaffna. He said the remaining 34 prisoners who had already been released from prison in Jaffna would definitely be allowed to come to Colombo once the goods sought by the LTTE arrive in Jaffna. He had stayed with the 39 prisoners once they were released at the Subhas Hotel in Jaffna town.